

# Communi<sup>g</sup>ram

Community United Church of Christ

Volume 39, Issue 8

Newsletter Date

## From the Desk of Rev. Mulberry

*Celebration of Community Supported Agriculture Shares*

**Sunday, May 6, 10:15 a.m.**

The Valparaiso Project Grant comes full circle during our Sunday, May 6, worship service. The grant enabled us to provide a sustainable feast on an organic farm for our congregation. The grant enabled us to provide a tour of the Urbana Farmer's Market and cooking classes with Laurence Mate. Finally, the grant allowed us to give scholarships to folks within our congregation who had interest in trying a Community Supported Agriculture share (CSAs) with a local farm. Many of those shares begin in May.

We will celebrate all of those people who participate in CSAs. If you used a scholarship from the church to purchase or already participate in a CSA, we invite you to join us in this celebration of food justice! I would ask everyone who participates in a CSA to wear a **green bandana** on that Sunday to share your solidarity with the earth, local farmers, your community, and peo-

ple all over the world who depend on just, sustainable practices for their food.

We will also be sharing in communion and Jacqueline Hannah, General Manager of Common Ground Food Co-op, will be preaching. Join us in this church's continuing celebration of food justice!

*Oaxaca Presentation*

**Thursday, May 17, 6:00 p.m. Parlor ~ Child Care Provided**

Though I am sure everyone has been flocking to watch my presentation on cable access (My neighbor related to me that he saw me on TV, to which I replied, "So . . . what did you think?" He responded, "I watched it for five minutes and then turned the station."), I want to share my gratitude to the congregation by presenting my experience in Oaxaca. I am so thankful for the monetary support, prayers, cards, and interest each of you has shown for the emergency delegation I took with Witness for Peace to Oaxaca, Mexico.

As a congregation on the University of Illinois campus surrounded by rural farmland, we seem particularly poised to live lives of integrity and call for justice around issues of food justice.

Oaxaca is the birthplace of corn. Tracy and I remember how, when we interviewed with the search committee, we knew we were home to see corn field after corn field. The geography of home can become a part of us.

So I invite you to continue to share in this experience with me. This congregation's diversity will be an important part of God's dream of justice for Illinois and Oaxaca. We have so many people who have served and continue to serve in the College of ACES. We have folks who work for Cargill and ADM. We have a number of families who have purchased Community Supported Agriculture shares this year. Healthy, nutritious food is a concern we all share. Stress and strain put on our economy by the continuing influx of immigrants from Latin America is at the center of a na-

### Inside this issue:

News From WLT Women's Fellowship	2
CUCC May Events Calendar	3
Preschool Garage Sale Scheduling at CUCC All Church Workday Building & Grounds Congregational Meeting CODAC	4
Sunday School Job Opening Youth Group General Synod Youth Trip Budget	5
Softball Players Ushers Needed All Church Picnic with LGBT Social Group	6
Campus Ministry New Church Directory Free Subscription	7

tional debate, and that debate is personified by the growing Hispanic population in our communities.

These issues require all of us. I hope you will join me in this continuing discussion as to how faith leads us to make choices out of our deepest values—radical hospitality, mutual care, and loving justice.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

## Worship Leadership Team Concerns

### Announcements

Living life in community offers a variety of issues that require our work and discernment.

Once or twice a year, the committee or task group that works with worship has to field complaints about announcements. My experience has been that every small to medium sized mainline congregation expresses this discontent. Especially when a congregation experiences an uptick in life and ministry, more and more announcements show up which do not correspond with the historical experience in the congregation.

When Pat Syoen asked me how I would suggest she make the announcement for drivers for our Community Supported Agriculture shares, I told Pat, "Make the announcement short (who, what, when where) and repeat it every week." Pat has related to me that this format has worked to enlist volunteers. This format recognizes that folks take in information different ways (reading, listening, seeing), will tune out anything longer than a minute or two, and that most of us need some form of repetition to have something register.

Worship Leadership Team has again heard frustration with announcements. In talking about a change in policy or developing guidelines for announcements, I shared with Worship Leadership Team about policy or guidelines which might penalize people who

respect boundaries put forward by new policy or guidelines.

I have no problems with announcements because announcements represent life in a congregation beyond the worship service. I am just one person, however, sealed in covenant with a congregational polity. Therefore, when complaints about announcements are made, I recognize that we do need some boundaries. With the support of Worship Leadership Team, I am asking folks to limit their announcements to life and work in the church, made once, and limited to one or two minutes. I am also asking for support of the congregation when I draw those boundaries.

Shalom,

Mike



## News from the Worship Leadership Team:

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

**April 22** - College led service & graduation Sunday (honoring high school and college graduates)

**May 6** - Communion Sunday (traditional format) Jacqueline Hannah guest speaker

### Three Summer Outdoor Services:

**June 3** - at Hessel Park in Champaign

**July 1** - at Meadowbrook Park in Urbana

**August 19** - at Crystal Lake Park in Urbana (with potluck after)

Also please note that we begin the **9:30 am service schedule beginning June 3** and going thru August 26.

We go back to the 10:15 am start time on September 2.

## CUCC's Women's Fellowship

Members of Community United Church of Christ's Women's Fellowship met at Clark-Lindsey Village on April 12, 2007. Elizabeth Easley, Jan Wilson and Olive Garrigus served as hostesses. Jean Nanney led the group in devotions and then presented a thought-provoking

description of her work as a lay pastor.

In the business portion of the meeting, a letter of thanks from Marianna Janssen was read. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was

accepted. The next meeting of the group will be held at the home of Mary Ellen Schroeder on May 10, 2007. Hostesses will be Mary Forbes and Edie Knippel. JoAnn Fley will lead devotions and Becky Hanson will present the program, "Drumming for Meditation".



# May 2007

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

## Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>*Sunday Schedule</b>                      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><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b>                      11:45 am Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b>                      7 am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens                      9 am Bulletin Deadline                      9:30 am Preschool Play Group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b>                      9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p><b>6</b> *See Schedule Above</p>
<p><b>7</b>                      10 am Communiongram Deadline</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b>                      11:45 am Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9 am Bulletin Deadline                      9:30 am Preschool Play Group                      8 pm AA                      1 pm Women's Fellowship at Mary Ellen Schroeder                      Monthly Church Meeting Night</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>                      9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p><b>13</b> *See Schedule Above                      9 am CODAC: Assimilating New Members &amp; Hospitality                      11:30 am Blood Pressure Checks</p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b>                      11:45 am Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>17</b>                      9 am Bulletin Deadline                      9:30 am Preschool Play Group                      7:00 Oaxaca Presentation                      8 pm AA</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>                      9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert</p>	<p><b>20</b> *See Schedule Above                      9 am CODAC: Assimilating New Members &amp; Hospitality                      4 pm Confirmation Class                      7 pm Administrative Committee Meeting</p>
<p><b>21</b>                      10 am Communiongram Deadline</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>                      11:45 am Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b>                      9 am Bulletin Deadline                      9:30 am Preschool Play Group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>                      9 am Women's Book Club at Espresso Royale by Krannert                      Brinkley Wedding</p>	<p><b>27</b> *See Schedule Above                      9 am CODAC: Assimilating New Members &amp; Hospitality                      No Youth Group</p>
<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b>                      Memorial Day                      Office Closed</p>	<p><b>30</b>                      11:45 am Prayer Protest                      7 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>31</b>                      9 am Bulletin Deadline                      9:30 am Preschool Play Group                      8 pm AA</p>	<p><b>CUCC Office Hours</b>                      Monday-Thursday                      9 am-3 pm</p>		

## Preschool Playgroup is Having Large Garage Sale

Playtime Preschool, a cooperative preschool on campus attended by many of our CUCC families, is having a large garage sale on **Saturday, May 5th**. We are collecting

donated items to sell at this sale, and would be happy to pick up any items you would like to donate for our sale. We even have some folks with trucks who will come and

pick up furniture or other large items. For more information or to donate items, please contact Deirdre Lanesskog at 353-0080 or mcglonedc@yahoo.com.

## Information for Any Scheduling at CUCC

To schedule any meetings or events to be located at CUCC please call Vicky Robertson at 398-8932, or email her at victoriarobertson@insightbb.com or email her at the CUCC Website [www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org).

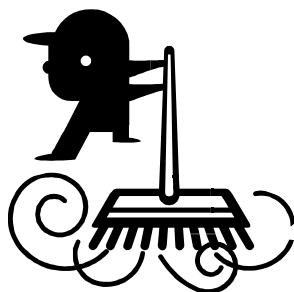
### All Church

### Workday

**Saturday,  
April 28**

**9:00 am—Noon**

**Please bring  
cleaning supplies  
and equipment.**



**If you have a specific project on your mind that you think needs attention please contact the church office (344-5091).**

### Building & Grounds

- ◆ Computers for free! The church is cleaning out some of its older PCs. If you would like an older vintage PC or monitor, please contact Scott Bush before April 19th.
- ◆ If anyone knows of a good home for a "needs some work" piano, please contact the church office by April 19th.

Church Office (344-5091)  
or [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org).

## Congregational Lunch and Meeting Sunday, April 22 at Noon

Don't forget that a Congregational Meeting has been called for this Sunday, April 22 at noon. There will be lunch before the meeting. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dessert along with your table service (including fork, knife and spoons). The agenda will include:

- 1) A report from the Synthesis and Sustainability Committee on options for our building.
- 2) Adoption of a revised Constitution, reflecting the new polity approved in January (can be downloaded from the churches website).
- 3) Election of officers and board members as defined by the new Constitution.

## CODAC ~ Assimilating New Members and Hospitality

Sundays, 9:00 am in the Conference Room, April 29 through May 27. Facilitated by Rev. Mike Mulberry and Ms Eileen Gebbie. If interested in attending this class there are sign-up Sheets on the bulletin board in the Parlor.

## Sunday School at Community

We are entering into our final rotation for this school year. During the year, our children have explored the stories of "Moses' Birth, Rescue and Call", "Mary and Elizabeth's First Christmas", "Jesus the Teacher", and "Praying with Jesus". We

now will journey with Cleopas and his companion (whom we've named Miriam!) on the "Road to Emmaus". As we journey, we will be exploring the ways that Jesus is resurrected. Please feel free to take a copy of the Biblical Background sheet or

newsletter to help you in talking with your children (or neighbors) about this transforming and transformative journey.

## Job Opening: Religious Education Assistant

**T**he Religious Education Committee would like to announce that we have an opening for a person to serve as the Religious Education Assistant

for our programs. This position will be approximately 10 hours per week, and will work 10 months of the year. If you or someone you know is interested in learn-

ing more about this, please contact the Church Office for a copy of the Job Description.

## Youth Group at Community

**April 21:** Japanese Dinner Fundraiser. Youth gather for preparation at 1:30!

**April 22:** Care envelopes for Youth Group Alumni. We'll be sending notes of encouragement to those in the midst of finals

**April 29:** We're going to do our own Graduation Party! We'll honor our High

School graduates, as well as our Middle School ones. While we're at it, why not honor all of you! Cake, ice cream and awards await you!

**May 6:** Youth Group from 6-8 pm. General Synod Preparations

**May 13:** No youth group as you celebrate Mother's Day.

**May 20:** Youth Group 6-8 pm  
General Synod Preparations

**May 27:** Youth Group 6-8 pm  
General Synod Preparations



## General Synod Youth Trip ~ June 2007

### Budget Sheet

Transportation (Amtrak from Indy to New Haven, Hartford to Chicago)	\$2000
General Synod Registration (includes breakfast)	\$1650
Meal Plan (covers lunch and dinner during Synod)	\$1750
Linens	\$ 462
t-shirts	\$ 210
Hammonasset Beach trip	\$ 500
Additional meals (while on the train and the day at New Haven)	\$1000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7572</b>

All amounts are based on 11 youth and 3 adult participants.

## CALLING ALL SOFTBALL PLAYERS!



CUCC is starting our fourth year of playing Friday night recreational softball through the wider Champaign-Urbana church league. The games are co-ed and are played on Friday evenings from the middle of May to the middle of August (we do not play Memorial Day weekend or 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend) at Dodds

Softball complex in Champaign. The games start at 6, 7, 8, or 9. All team members alternate with providing child care at the softball complex. Everyone gets to play on our team no matter what your skill set may be. The cost per team is around \$400.00. In the past, each team member has paid around \$20.00 plus an additional cost for t-shirts. If you are interested in playing, please contact the church office by 5/1/07.

## Ushers Needed!

We need part-time ushers. We need an usher the first Sunday of each month when students are on break, and we also one for the 5th Sunday in April, July, and September. If preferred, two people can team up and take turns ("usher-sharing"). These commitments would be for 2007 only, as we will have a new sign-up for 2008. Please help out by the church office.

## Winter's finally over – and summer's almost here!

Please join the GLBT Social group for an old-fashioned pot luck picnic.

Saturday, April 28, 2007 at 3:30 pm

Meadowbrook Park in Urbana – Prairie Play Pavilion



Please bring a dish to share. The LGBT group will provide drinks and fun activities for all (including some kites to fly). This is an inclusive, all church invitation - so everyone's welcome – gay or straight, old and young! For more information please contact the church office (344-5091).

## Prayer Protest Continues!



Each Wednesday at 11:45 am for the past three years members and friends have met at the northeast front entrance of the Church to provide campus folk with "Gorp" or "Trail Mix" containing Words of Compassion for those suffering in Iraq. Bring your sack lunch and join us in distributing "food for thought" and some lively conversation. If you are interested in providing "gorp" or "trail mix" please drop it off in the church office. You could also make a monetary contribution to help with the cost of the mix.

## Campus Ministry

**T**he UCC Campus Ministry has really had a blessed spring so far. During the University's spring break we had the wonderful opportunity to travel to the Sea Islands of South Carolina and help restore homes with Rural Missions. Our Breakaway group was 25 members strong and each day we were divided up into four different work projects. Each project was led by a student leader from our very own group. The jobs accomplished were

restoring a roof, building two separate ramps for homebound homeowners, and repainting and fixing up the exterior of a home. Our campus ministry not only restored homes, establish strong friendships, and grew in our spirituality; we also met many amazing individuals. This journey as a group allowed us to step outside of our comfort zone and truly make a difference in our world. God's love and protection was with us every step of the way, and we were reminded of that from the smiles on the homeowners' faces, to the sigh of

relief as we made it home safe from our fourteen hour trip. Each of us felt blessed to have had the chance to be a part of this Rural Mission journey. We would love to tell you our story, so please ask if when you see us at church on Sunday! As the end of the semester is approaching fast we look forward to many fun activities to come such as the Boneyard Clean-up service project, student-led service, chapel at Allerton park, and a group scrapbook party.

—Allison Hall

## New Church Directory & Communigram Subscription

You can find new church directories at the back of the sanctuary on the credenza. Please check them over for corrections or additions. Please contact the church office by phone (344-5091) or email <info@community-ucc.org> for up-

dated information.

Also, if you are receiving the Communigram but no longer wish to receive it, contact the church office (344-5091) or email <info@community-ucc.org> with

remove from Communigram in the subject area. Please be sure to include your full name and address.

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OF CHRIST**

*A Just Peace, Progressive,  
LGBT Open and Affirming Congregation*

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Julia Kara, David Robertson

**UCC Campus Ministry Staff**

**Campus Minister:** Rev. Karen Bush  
[Karen@community-ucc.org](mailto:Karen@community-ucc.org)

Label

The next Communigram will be mailed out on May 9

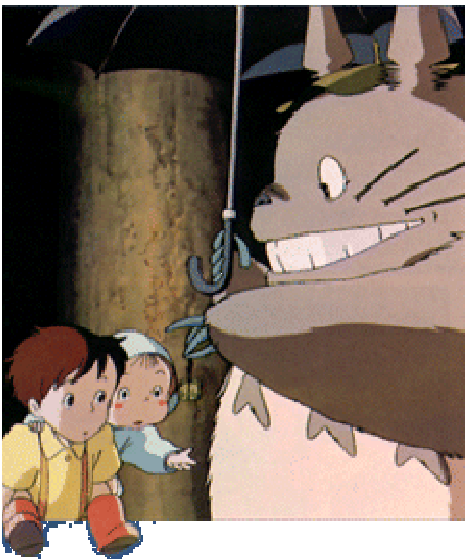
**Sunday Schedule**

9:00 am ~ Sunday School  
9:30 am ~ Choir Rehearsal

10:15 am ~ Worship  
11:30 am ~ Coffee Hour  
6-8 pm ~ Youth Group

*Youth Group Fundraiser  
Japanese Dinner Theater*

*Saturday, April 21  
5:00—7:30 pm*



*Dinner will include rice and miso soup, salmon  
(we will have a few chicken breasts),  
edamame salad and a fun version of sushi for dessert.*

*The cost for dinner will be \$10 for adults,  
\$5 for children, (4 & under free).*

*Contact Rev. Tracy Heilman ([tracy@community-ucc.org](mailto:tracy@community-ucc.org)) or phone  
the church office (344-5091) to reserve your tickets.*

*After dinner, we invite you to stay for a showing  
of Hayao Miyazaki's classic,  
My Neighbor Totoro.*

**“ We gather to nurture, share and celebrate the wonder of life. No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on life’s journey...we invite you to join us.**