

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
JUST PEACE, PROGRESSIVE,  
LGBTQ OPEN AND AFFIRMING

# COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 7

JULY 1, 2009



## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

For many years one of my jobs at CUCC was to secure liturgists for each Sunday service. I had a pool of dedicated volunteers who I would cajole into being our liturgist 3-4 times a year. However, the commitment on any given Sunday was rather limited. Sometimes there would be one scripture reading, a call to worship reading and the prayer of dedication. Many times the minister would supply the prayer and the call to worship, so the actual "original material" or lead preparation was pretty limited. And as a result, maybe the experience was pretty limiting as well.

About six or eight months ago, Rev. Karen put out a call for any interested parties to join in a more intentional effort to the call of liturgist. The response was that eight of us have signed on to be liturgists. This means you see us up front assisting with worship about once every couple of months. Granted, the commitment is more than it once was, but so are the rewards.

We gather once a month to reflect and review. We read upcoming scriptures and try to understand the inspired words. We practice reading from the lectern and we give encouraging words to each other. And from what many had said to me and my other compatriots, is that you have noticed a difference and you like it. You have commented that you like that we frequently give a little background on the scripture, that our voices seem more relaxed and powerful. We like hearing those comments. We had hoped this would have a positive experience on the worship service. Thanks for your support.

Linda Owens is our team leader. If you would like to become a member of this team, speak to Linda, or to any of the rest of us that you see up front each Sunday. We would love to have you join us. It has been an enriching experience for each of us and we would be thrilled to share that with you.

(OK, so this Musings had absolutely nothing to do with being moderator, but sometimes the inspiration takes a different path.)

~Tom

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## WORSHIP AT COMMUNITY UCC IN THE PULPIT...

June 28<sup>th</sup> - Ellen Kordik

July 5<sup>th</sup> - Hymn Sing

July 12<sup>th</sup> - Hymn Sing in Hessel Park

The deadline for the next Communigram is July 24<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear CUCC family and friends-

Gandhi is quoted as saying, "Become the change you wish to see in the world".

This is a powerful challenge not just for individuals but even more so for congregations like ours. It is a challenge, which inspires the way we talk to and about one another. It is a challenge, which inspires the manner in which we share power and information and how decisions are made. It is a challenge, which inspires the ease with which each person and each generation finds their own space and place to "be" within the church. It is a challenge to the quality and depth of hospitality given to each new person as they step across our threshold. Each detail of our life together matters. Each part is an essential step in authentic, revolutionary justice work. Authentic justice work that means the difference between abstract theory and easy platitudes and the kind of congregational presence that impacts lives and human history.

May we as a congregation continue to welcome the challenges and changes that come our way with our best and most loving selves. We will be blessed and the world will be blessed.

Peace,  
Pastor Karen

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## Update from the Building and Grounds Team

Although the visible signs of construction and renovation have slowed, our Project Manager, Bob Devine and Architect, Guy Hampel, have been working to prepare required drawings; identified projects will soon be open for review and competitive bids. Once the contractors are selected, a construction schedule will be available. It is likely that work on the heating/cooling system will begin in July. In the meantime, Bob has scheduled minor masonry work that will further stabilize the building.

The Buildings and Grounds team is working with Interior Designer, Karen Devine to choose appropriate flooring, lighting fixtures, appliances, and paint. We are also investigating options for replacement of the warped, inefficient main-entry doors on the east side (6<sup>th</sup> Street) of the building. If you would like to provide input on any of the above decisions, please contact a member of the Buildings and Grounds team.

Throughout the renovation process, the members of the Buildings and Grounds team will make every effort to provide the congregation with timely updates. Please remember to contact our Community Life Calendar Keeper, David Gerstenecker, before scheduling any event/meeting in the building – he will have current information about available space. If you have any questions or concerns, you are encouraged to contact any member of the Team: Scott Bush, Jennifer Kelleher, or Deirdre Lanesskog.

### Recently Completed Projects

- Painting of trim on the exterior windows on the east side of the building;
- Construction and painting of columns in the Fellowship Hall;
- Meeting of informal kitchen design group to provide input to the Project Management and Design Team (input will be ongoing).

### Ongoing Projects

- Completion of drawings by Project Management and Design Team;
- Soliciting competitive bids from qualified contractors, selection of contractors, and determination of a general construction schedule;
- Work, as needed, to stabilize the building for renovation.

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## CUCC Choir

The CUCC Choir is looking for people to volunteer for special music and to participate in the choir during July. If you are interested, please contact Bob Smith at 352-2683.

## Mission Accomplished!

The mission trip to St. Louis, MO started off with a full tank of gas, a cooler full of water bottles, and a queasy stomach for myself having never led a trip like this before. My co-leader Mike Allen and yours truly, having no children of our own, could hardly have imagined what a week with five active teenagers would mean. Needless to say, from the moment we got into the Bush family van, the next seven days were filled with lots of laughter, wisecracks, and more food consumption than any of us could imagine. We worked at a low-income day care in East St. Louis where we heard a story of tenacity as the woman who ran the organization told us what a struggle is was to keep such a service running and how her faith in God took over when the money just wasn't coming in as fast as she'd like. We organized a food pantry and met a young intern studying for the ministry whose cheerful attitude influenced our own work ethic. We painted a church in the famous St. Louis heat, shredded documents at an employment agency that helps the chronically under-employed, and rounded out the trip by helping our host church paint signs for their vacation bible school. We met too many amazing individuals and inspirational groups to recount in one Communigram, and got to know each other just a little bit better. The week ended with an "Explore St. Louis" day and then a trip to Six Flags that left everyone (or at least Mike and me) totally exhausted! Our youth group may be small, but we are mighty! Thanks to all of CUCC for your continued support. We hope to have a youth service with pictures and testimonials from each of our youth group members ready later this summer so we can share more details of our wonderful trip with all of you!

Peace,

Sarah J. Noceda  
RE Director

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## How Music Speaks to Me

Music is a part of my daily life. My mother used to say she knew my mood, depending on the music I was playing or listening to. If a day or two goes by without some type of music, things are just not right for me.

I listen to classical music on the lazy mornings when I am not in a hurry, or when I'm unwinding before bed. I like country music in the mornings when I am going to work. The rich chords of barbershop music are my traveling companion on long car trips. Playing church hymns on the piano has helped me through life's valleys, and gives me direction and inspiration when I need it most. 60's era music gives me energy anytime, and light jazz sets a lively but relaxing mood for mealtime, reading, or writing. I've even been known to do housework to John Philip Sousa marches.

But one day recently, when I was having a rather isolated day, (I hadn't talked to anyone, or gone anywhere), I knew I needed a little "pick-me-up". So I sat down at the piano and opened a songbook. I started playing and singing the song where the book had opened. After singing the first few lines, I had to stop and take a deep breath, mostly because I could no longer see the words with the tears in my eyes. It felt as if these words were written just for me, and God was letting me know I would always be loved. It was a very special moment that God and I shared that day. The song does not have quite the same effect without the music, but I want to share the words with you, in the hope that you may find them helpful the next time you are in need of a sermon in song!

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart be lonely—and long for heaven and home, When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he.

His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free.

For his eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

*Words by Mrs. C.D. Martin Music by Charles H. Gabriel*

Submitted by Linda Morgan  
Faith Community Nurse

## When do I start paying my Capital Campaign Pledge?

Now that the active portion of the Building with Faith in the Future Capital Campaign is over, people have begun asking when they should start paying their pledges. The answer is anytime between now and May of 2011 depending on your own finances. Some are paying in lump sums, some are paying weekly, monthly, or annually, so whatever you are most comfortable with is fine. For the church, however, sooner is better than later because the more money we can collect upfront the less we will have to borrow.

If you have questions about your individual pledge, please contact Financial Secretary Tom Watembach. If you have questions about the capital campaign as a whole or if you would like to make a pledge (because it's never too late), please feel free to contact Vicky Robertson or Michelle Franke of the Financial Development Team. And thank you again to everyone who participated in making this campaign such a success.

Warm Regards,  
Vicky Robertson

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## The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity: Inclusion

By calling ourselves progressive, we mean we are Christians who invite all people to participate in our community and worship life without insisting that they become like us in order to be acceptable (including but not limited to):

- believers and agnostics,
- conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
- women and men,
- those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
- those of all races and cultures,
- those of all classes and abilities,
- those who hope for a better world and those who have lost hope.

*The Center for Progressive Christianity ([tcpc.org](http://tcpc.org))*

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## Second Annual CUCC Parking Lot Sale

The Second Annual CUCC Parking Lot Sale is scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup> and if we are going to beat last year's outstanding total of \$2000, we're going to need all of your good "stuff". (Small pieces of furniture for apartments and dorm rooms sold particularly well as did adult winter coats.) At this time, because we do not yet have a construction schedule for our kitchen, we do not have a final plan for dropping things off at the church. Please hold onto your items for a few more weeks and we'll let you know as soon as we know how things are going to be organized and stored. If you don't have room to store your items at home until the sale, let me know and we'll figure something out.

Thanks,  
Vicky Robertson  
Financial Resources Development Team

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## From the Worship Committee

The following people will be providing us with sermons during July and August:

- July 5:** Hymn Sing
- July 12:** Pastor Karen (*at Hessel Park*) with communion by intinction
- July 19:** Jan Dobson
- July 26:** Colie Huppertz
- August 2:** Linda Owens
- August 9:** Rev. Phil Hart, Conference Minister
- August 23:** Pastor Karen
- August 30:** Rev. Steve Shoemaker

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## CUCC Nursery Staff Available for Summer Babysitting

Ms. Lauren Knutsen and Ms. Jessica Bush, both staff members of CUCC's nursery, would like to be considered as possible babysitters for church members who may need a little break from their little ones during the summer months. Please contact Lauren at [knutsen2@illinois.edu](mailto:knutsen2@illinois.edu) or Jessica at [jmbush511@yahoo.com](mailto:jmbush511@yahoo.com) for their availability.

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## Attention Soup Makers!

June 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> are Community's dates for delivering soup to TIMES center. All kinds of soup, except cream soups, are welcome. They love chili and any kind of vegetable/meat or vegetarian/pasta are welcome. They will accept soup at any time if those dates do not work for you. Buckets of soup can be temporarily stored in the upstairs kitchen freezer, buckets will be available on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. The men (and sometimes women at noon) are grateful for the donated soup from many churches and groups in Champaign-Urbana. The soup can also be delivered to the TIMES Center on Washington and Market Streets. Thank you to those who have already delivered their soup!



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## Let's Read!

Do any of you have interest in reading and discussing longtime CUCC pastor Jack Good's newest book this summer? The book is entitled: [Emotions and Values: Exploring the Source of Jesus' Strength and Influence](#) and was just recently released. (See Pastor Karen's recent e-mail about the book and how to get a copy.) If you are interested, please see Jeanne Ward, or call (344-1619) or e-mail ([jeawa@comcast.net](mailto:jeawa@comcast.net)) during this week? Then the interested folks could decide on mutually acceptable dates and times to get together. We could meet 3 or 4 times this summer in order to discuss the reading and its impact on us. Sound interesting to you? Let's read!

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## God Is Still Speaking Task Force

When the God is Still Speaking Task Force met last weekend, we completed a "hospitality audit". This was a checklist designed to see if there were things or procedures in our church which could be more "user-friendly" or welcoming, especially for folks who are visitors to our church. We will be following up on several of the things we noticed in the checklist in future months, but one jumped out as an area in which many of you may want to help: the general appearance and functioning of our church library. In case you didn't know we have a church library, it is located at the south end of the parlor where we have Sunday morning fellowship time. It has many wonderful resources, but is in need of some tender loving care to deal with things that have been donated in the years since we had a church librarian, to get things organized and straightened up, and to make sure it is clear to people how they can check materials out to use. If you have been looking for a way to get more involved here at CUCC, (or even if you haven't, but this piques your interest), please call the church office to volunteer!



# JULY 2009

## Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

**CUCC Office Hours**  
 Monday AND Thursday  
 11:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>*Sunday Schedule</b> 9:15 am                      9:30 am Worship                      and Community Time                      6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group                      7:30 pm AA</p>		<p><b>6</b> pm Operation Snowball                      (Fellowship Hall,                      Conference Room, and                      Classrooms)                      6:30 pm Overeaters                      Anonymous (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>1</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline                      6:30 pm Chime Choir                      (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>2</b> 7 am Men's Fellowship @                      Urbana Gardens                      10 am International Group                      6 pm Search Committee                      8 pm AA</p>		<p><b>4</b> 9 am Women's Book                      Group</p>
<p><b>5</b>                      *See Schedule                      Blood Pressure Screening</p>		<p><b>7</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball                      (Fellowship Hall,                      Conference Room, and                      Classrooms)                      6:30 pm Overeaters                      Anonymous (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>8</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10 am International Group                      6 pm Search Committee                      8 pm AA</p>		<p><b>11</b> 9 am Women's Book                      Group</p>
<p><b>12</b>                      *See Schedule                      11:30 am CLB Meeting</p>		<p><b>14</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball                      (Fellowship Hall,                      Conference Room, and                      Classrooms)                      6:30 pm Overeaters                      Anonymous (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>15</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10 am International Group                      6 pm Search Committee                      8 pm AA</p>		<p><b>18</b> 9 am Women's Book                      Group</p>
<p><b>19</b>                      *See Schedule</p>		<p><b>21</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball                      (Fellowship Hall,                      Conference Room, and                      Classrooms)                      6:30 pm Overeaters                      Anonymous (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>22</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline                      6:30 pm Chime Choir</p>	<p><b>23</b> 10 am International Group                      6 pm Search Committee                      8 pm AA                       Communigram Deadline</p>		<p><b>25</b> 9 am Women's Book                      Group</p>
<p><b>26</b>                      *See Schedule</p>		<p><b>28</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball                      (Fellowship Hall,                      Conference Room, and                      Classrooms)                      6:30 pm Overeaters                      Anonymous (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>		<p><b>31</b></p>

# Building with Faith in the Future

## Community UCC Capital Campaign

### Giving Levels

#### \$1-\$2,499

Anonymous  
 Mike Allen  
 Mary Andersen  
 Gayne Barnhart  
 Tei & Donald Barnhart  
 Pat Barnhart  
 Carla Barnwell & Eileen Gebbie  
 Patricia Brady & Dan Kuchma  
 Dawn Carson  
 Nancy Cattell  
 Jean Creswell  
 Helene & John Dickel  
 Patricia Donahue  
 Mary Forbes  
 Olive Garrigus  
 Sarah & Todd Isaacs  
 Jennifer & Neil Kelleher  
 Deirdre & Stig Lannesskog  
 Margie Mathewson  
 Patricia McQuillen  
 Denise & Tony Oligney-Estill  
 Jan Petee & Laura Stevens  
 Bob Smith  
 Friends of the John Due Family  
 UCF Campus Ministry Alumni

#### \$2,500-\$4,999

Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Eleanor & William Blackmon  
 Elizabeth Easley  
 Ruth & Ralph Fisher  
 Gerstenecker Family  
 Caryl & Kent Henkel

Karen Kelsky & Kellee Weinhold  
 Anna Mehl & Mark Althouse  
 Sarah Noceda & Spencer Watson  
 Donna & Paul Offenbecher  
 Linda Owens  
 Jack Paxton  
 Ellen & David Willcox

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Michelle Chappell & Michelle Franke  
 Becky Hanson  
 Kristin Hoganson & Charles Gammie  
 Linda Morgan  
 Elaine & Russel Peppers  
 Victoria & Ian Robertson  
 Deborah Townsend  
 Peggy & Roger Wade  
 Jeanne & Tom Ward  
 Sheldon Williams  
 Janice Wilson

#### \$10,000-\$14,999

Anonymous  
 Karen & Scott Bush  
 Ellen Kordik & Tom Watembach  
 Frances & Touby Kurtz  
 Jean & David Nanney  
 Beth Robischon & Bruce Smith

#### \$15,000 and up

Anonymous  
 Jean Due  
 Jo Ann Fley  
 Ruth & Ken Gilbert  
 Marianna Janssen  
 Susan & Richard Schnuer  
 Mary Ellen & Bob Schroeder

**Our campaign total, including money on hand, is \$428,113.48! Congratulations CUCC and thank you to everyone who gave so generously to this campaign!**

**Michelle Franke & Vicky Robertson  
 Financial Development Team**

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## SUNDAY SUMMER SCHEDULE

**9:30 am** Worship  
After the Children's Time,  
children up to 4 years old are welcome  
in the nursery

**11:30 am** Community Time

Label

The next CommuniGram will be mailed out on July 30<sup>th</sup>

## CHURCH STAFF

### Transition Pastor/Campus Minister:

Rev. Karen Bush  
karen@community-ucc.org

### Religious Education Director:

Sarah Noceda  
sarah@community-ucc.org

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

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

**Office Manager:** Hailee Osterer  
info@community-ucc.org

### Faith Community Nurses:

Linda Morgan, Jennifer Kelleher, and  
Faith Roberts

### Community Life Calendar Keeper:

David Gerstenecker  
calendar@communiy-ucc.org

**Child Care Providers:** Jessica Bush,  
Lauren Knutsen, and Kathryn Scott

### Children's Choir Director:

Christina Vergilio  
cvirgil3@illinois.edu



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