

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

# COMMUNIGRAM

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VOLUME 41, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 1, 2009

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear CUCC family and friends,

Margaret Mead is quoted as saying, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Though we are "only" a small church family with limited time and resources, I firmly believe that the future wholeness, growth, and relevance of this congregation will be most greatly determined by our ability to find new ways to work together to continue to bring about change in the world- beginning in our own backyard and continuing on around the globe.

I also believe that now, after this vital year of healing and regeneration, Community UCC is ready to move full steam ahead in mission and outreach with a similar force of focus, excitement, and commitment that so many of you continue to pour into our common life together.

We need -- and the world needs us to do this to our best ability. Our ancestors of this congregation cheer us on and inspire us by their timeless examples of justice work and bold compassionate living.

On another note...It has been a true joy for me to have served as your pastor during this transitional year and a half together and I thank you for the privilege and the journey. From where I stand the future of Community United Church of Christ looks strong, healthy, and vibrant.

I know you will join me in our mutual eagerness to see what the future holds as God ushers CUCC into a new day.

Blessings, my friends~  
Pastor Karen

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## Church Office Hours

Normal Church Office hours will resume on August 17th. The office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

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## WORSHIP AT COMMUNITY UCC

**August 2nd** - Linda Owens  
**August 9th**-Rev. Phil Hart, Conference Minister  
**August 23rd** - Pastor Karen  
**August 30th** - Rev. Steve Shoemaker

**The deadline for the next Communigram is August 18<sup>th</sup> at Noon.**

## MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Our church is undergoing a magnificent renovation. It started with the sidewalk and drainage issues on the west side, it moved into the parlor, and then into the office hallways. Now it is beginning to take place in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall.

But there is another area of the church that needs renovation – and that is the website. Several members and friends have offered to assist in the past and now the Church Life Board (CLB) is ready to accept your offers. The CLB is interested in a new look to the website and making it fresh. There is a lot of information on the website that is very old and stale. The CLB is willing to add some funds to assist with this effort.

It was agreed at the last CLB meeting that what is needed, in addition to someone who has technical skills, is someone who has the passion for maintenance. Anyone who has ever tried to keep a website fresh and up-to-date, knows that maintenance is a major issue. It takes a dedicated individual with a passion to keep a website fresh. Or it takes a passionate team all taking a share of the responsibility.

A team approach might work if each member of the team took responsibility for a specific area of the website. For example, as the site is currently constructed, if one person took responsibility for the “top-level” pages (the home page, the “Who We Are” page, the “Community Involvement” page, etc.) then someone else could take responsibility for the “Music” page, “Education” page, the “Staff” page, etc.

If you have interest in participating in the website renovation, please let Hailee know at the church office. You could either call or, better, email her at [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org).

~Tom  
tjw@illinois.edu

## Memorial Funds

In June after consultation with the family members, the following Memorial Funds were allocated after being read into the record of the CLB meeting:

*Gifts from the friends and family of Helen Crane were dedicated to the purchase of a computer projector for general church use.*

*Gifts from the friends and family Frances Kurtz were dedicated to the Air Conditioning Fund.*

*Gifts from the friends and family of Curt Wilson were dedicated to the Building Fund.*

My personal thanks go to all the family members with whom I spoke or wrote during this process for sharing your thoughts with me about your loved ones and their affection for this church and its congregation. It has been a very rewarding experience.

Vicky Robertson  
Co-Chair FRDT

## Crop Walk

Thank you to all who walked or contributed to the 2009 Crop Walk! We had about 10 walkers and raised \$3,294.86. Last year we had 6 walkers and raised \$1,563. Despite a rather distracted coordinator, you all did GREAT! The whole walk raised a total of \$32,338.64 in 2008. This year the total was \$30,026.11. Considering the economy, it was a great job. 2009 total will end up with slightly higher, however, as checks keep coming into the fall.

Curt and I have worked on the CROP WALK since it began in 1992 in C-U. WE need some younger, enthusiastic members on the planning committee. It involves 3 or 4 planning meetings a year, plus attendance at the RALLY where church coordinators pick up their material which Church World Service provides. It is not difficult and if you have any interest, please talk to me some Sunday. I will be gone all of July, but will be back August 1. I would be happy to share in the coordinator's job or act as resource if someone wants to take over. Please think about it and let me know your interest. You can be sure that the money raised by Church World Service is carefully and stringently used to help poor people around the world.

~Jan Wilson  
(217) 367- 5783 (after Aug. 1)

## Got Stuff? Second Annual All - Church Parking Lot Sale

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, CUCC will be holding its Second Annual All - Church Parking Lot Sale. If we are going to beat last year's inaugural effort of \$2000, we need two things: your unwanted treasures and a bit of your time.

Please take this opportunity to clear out saleable items from your garage, closets, basement, shed, attic, or anywhere else things accumulate and bring them to the church. (Small items of furniture that can be used in apartments or dorm rooms sell really well.) Because of all the construction taking place in our church building this summer, we will be storing items for the sale in the 510 E. Daniel Building. This building is normally locked, so we will have specific drop-off times, as listed below. Please do not leave items anywhere in the church building. If the drop-off times are inconvenient for you, please contact Michelle Franke or Vicky Robertson to arrange an alternative.

In the coming weeks, volunteers will be needed to help pick-up, sort, price, and sell all of your great stuff. We will need help on each of the drop-off dates as well as on the date of the sale. We will also need a few strong backs and large vehicles to pick-up items around town for those unable to transport things themselves. You may volunteer by contacting Michelle & Vicky or by signing the sign-up sheet in the parlor.

### DROP-OFF TIMES:

Saturday, August 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am– 1:00 pm
Sunday August 9 <sup>th</sup>	immediately following Worship
Saturday, August 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am- 1:00 pm
Sunday, August 16 <sup>th</sup>	immediately following Worship
Friday, August 21 <sup>st</sup>	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

*Unfortunately, because of space limitations, we cannot accept clothing except for outerwear (jackets, coats, hats, etc.) and Illini Wear.*

Thanks,  
Michelle Franke & Vicky Robertson  
Financial Development Team

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## Search Committee Update

Your Senior Pastor Search Committee continues to work diligently this summer on your behalf! We are continuing to accept pastoral profiles from candidates who have expressed an interest in serving our church. We have conducted numerous phone interviews with those candidates with characteristics -- based on the information in their profiles-- that match the needs of our church. We have also completed three onsite interviews with candidates who, after having reviewed their profiles and interviewed them on the phone, were of particular interest. Each onsite interview took place over a two-day period during which the committee formally interviewed the candidate, participated in a worship service directed by the candidate, and interacted informally with the candidate (including a tour of the area).

We will continue to work prayerfully on your behalf until we have a final candidate to bring before the congregation. If you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Search Committee.

*Carl Duffield, Ruth Fisher, Michelle Franke, Sophie Gerstenecker, Caryl Henkel, Anna Mehl, Grant Robbennolt (Chair), Sophie Gerstenecker*

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## The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity: Act As We Believe

By calling ourselves progressive, we mean we are Christians who know that the way we behave toward one another and toward other people is the fullest expression of what we believe.

The Center for Progressive Christianity (tpc.org)

## Independence Center Education Series

Parkland College Non-Credit Courses: This fall, the Independence Center Education Series is offering six programs to improve health and safety, and to maintain an active lifestyle. Programs are presented at the Parkland on Mattis facility located at 1309 N. Mattis Ave. in Champaign, with full accessibility, close-to-door parking, and with bus route to the front door.

### *Safe Driving for Persons Over 60*

Learn ways to stay safe while driving by watching active older adults participating in "Keep Moving Longer: Features for Safe Driving." A Driver Safety Checklist will be available to identify individual driving safety features.

Sat. Aug. 29 • 10:00 am- 12:00 pm • Fee: \$6

Location: HP-H122

Deadline: Aug. 21

WLI-432-850

### *CarFit (r) for Older Drivers*

Improve your safety by ensuring that your car is adjusted for the proper fit. At a CarFit(r) event, a team of trained technicians work with you to maximize your vehicle's features for comfort and safety. A Confidential CarFit(r) check takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The CarFit(r) program was created by the American Society on Aging and developed in collaboration with AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association. Takes place at the Parkland on Mattis parking lot. Please call 217/353-2055 for an appointment.

Thursday Sept. 17 • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm • FREE

Location: Parkland on Mattis Parking lot

Deadline: Call for an appointment by Sept. 10

WLI426-850

For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Bahnke, MHS, OTR/L

Program Director

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

Parkland College

2400 W. Bradley Avenue

Champaign, IL 61821-1899

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## It's time for the three G's...God, Giggles, and Good Old-Fashioned Fun!

Rally day is almost here! We'd love to have you and yours join us on August the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the kickoff to our Sunday school year at CUCC. We will be hosting an old-fashioned Sunday School picnic with blessings and fellowship, cookies and lemonade, and fun and games (the three-legged, potato-sack, egg-on-spoon kind!). Come look at our curriculum for the academic year, ask questions about our many programs, and make new friends. Location and times TBD based on weather and construction. Watch the mail for your official invitation!

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## Of Peace Poles and Time Capsules

On August 30th the CUCC Sunday school is invited to attend a workshop and a dedication in place of our regular Sunday School curriculum. In one hour our children will be contributing to something truly timeless by each making one special thing to place in our CUCC time capsule. This time capsule will be sealed at the base of our new Peace Pole, also to be dedicated by the children at this time. Parents are welcome to assist in what we're hoping will be a very memorable experience for our young people as they exercise their "belonging" within the church family. Email reminders will go out in coming weeks-we hope to see you there!

Notice to all Sunday School Parents: There will be no Sunday school on September 6<sup>th</sup> due to Labor Day weekend.

# AUGUST 2009

## Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

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>CUCC Office Hours</b> Monday AND Thursday 11:00 am-4:00 pm</p>					<p><b>1</b> 9 am Women's Book Group</p>
<p><b>2</b> *See Schedule</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms) 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>5</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Chime Choir (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>6</b> 7:00 am Men's Fellowship @ Urbana Gardens 10 am International Group 6 pm Search Committee 8 pm AA</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 9 am Women's Book Group</p>
<p><b>9</b> *See Schedule</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms) 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p><b>13</b> 10 am International Group 6 pm Search Committee 8 pm AA</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 9 am Women's Book Group</p>
<p><b>16</b> *See Schedule</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms) 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous (Parlor) <i>Communigram Deadline</i></p>	<p><b>19</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Chime Choir (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>20</b> 10 am International Group 6 pm Search Committee 8 pm AA</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 9 am Women's Book Group</p>
<p><b>23</b> *See Schedule</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms) 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous (Parlor)</p>	<p><b>26</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>30</b> *See Schedule</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>					

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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 August 31st

## 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

## JUST KIDDING

