

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

COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 1, 2009



From the Pastor's Desk

"For everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required." - Luke 12:4

Every day we are a step closer to having a brand new state-of-the-art kitchen, a new Fellowship Hall, air conditioning, and a more effective heating system. What will we do with this new wealth of resources?

As we begin to adjust our common life to enjoy and utilize our new building, it is my fervent prayer that we will not isolate ourselves in an "Ivory Tower" of wealth and privilege. It is my hope that we will aggressively and intentionally open our doors in new ways.

It is Jesus' mandate that they {we} who have been blessed with so much be firmly committed to sharing what they {we} have. We are to do this by opening our hearts, our strength, and our resources to our neighbors. Neighbors who are refugees, neighbors who are hungry, neighbors who are homeless. We are to do this not only for their sake as children of God but also for Our sake as children of God. The Scriptures, Jesus and the Prophets throughout history urge us to be clear that fruition of our spiritual welfare is not possible otherwise.

As we move forward to making plans for our future community life in our new building, let us be ever mindful of these things.

Peace, my friends.
Pastor Karen

WORSHIP AT COMMUNITY UCC IN THE PULPIT...

October 4th - Karen Bush
October 11th - TBD
October 18th - Ellen Kordik
October 25th - Campus Ministry

The deadline for the next Communigram is *October 22nd at Noon.*

Moderator's Musings

My oh my, but the church is a dusty, dirty mess right now. But aren't you excited about the metamorphosis that is about to take place? From insiders close to the work, I have it on good authority that we might see a beautiful butterfly by Thanksgiving. Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing to be thankful for? A lot of hard work has gone into this renovation, and not just by the contractors and workers we have employed to get the work done. There has been a lot of work done by my faithful volunteers of our congregation that have put in countless hours and offered terrific advice to the renovators along the way. I am very thankful to them and I know you are as well.

And while there has been a lot of destruction and construction going on at 805 S. Sixth, there has been a fair amount going on at 510 E. Daniels as well. I encourage you to updates elsewhere in this Communigram that outlines all the work he and others have done to get the building ready for our new tenants. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done to that property to make it inhabitable and rentable. That will be our next renovation project I believe.

Mark your calendar. The Church Life Board set the date for our church's annual meeting – January 24th. I presume it will be in the beautiful, new Fellowship Hall, but those and other details haven't been worked out yet. So stay tuned.

I also encourage you to read the update from the Search Committee. They have been working very hard the last several weeks (truth: they have been working hard since they were appointed). Are we close to making a call? Time will tell. If you haven't prayed for them lately, now would be a good time.

Peace to you all.

~Tom

Sunday School Update

Dear Sunday School Parents:

Thank you for all your support in this first month of Sunday School. I can't tell you how wonderful it is to see all those bright, smiling faces on Sunday mornings! I can't believe how much all of our children have grown and changed in just one year. They have been spending a better part of the past two Sundays reminding me that they are now in "X grade, *not* X grade!" thank you very much! And that they are "X years old now!" Silly me. We apologize for the disorder in the Fellowship Hall. It's made it necessary for us to move the classrooms around a bit in order to keep our young ones safe. We assure you that once that part of the construction is safely under wraps, we will be returning to our usual arrangements. Please remember that *in addition* to our regular offerings of K-12 Sunday School from 9:00 am-10:00am on Sunday mornings we will also be offering a *second* K/1 class during the service to coincide with our preschool class. We believe we are responding to the changing needs of our congregation by affirming our commitment to reaching all of our little ones whenever we can. We look forward to your continued support in this semester's pilot program and we welcome any feedback you may have to offer concerning this new venture.

Ms. Sarah J. Noceda
RE Director
sjnoceda@yahoo.com

How Are My Joys And Concerns Made Known?

Well, school is back in session and so it is a good time for us too to review the procedures for making known to the congregation our joys and concerns. The process is two-fold:

1. Fill out the blue sheet of paper labeled **Community UCC's Care Card...Joys and Concerns** found in the church pew and drop it in the offering plate or leave it in Pastor Karen's box in the church office on Sunday morning.
2. Either e-mail Pastor Karen or Hailee, the Office Manager, your joy or concern, or call the church office and speak with Pastor Karen or Hailee and voice your joy or concern. Please do either of these by Wednesday morning, the bulletin deadline.

For unexpected life happenings which occurred after mid-week and did not make it into the bulletin, you may put your name and joy or concern on a piece of paper and give it to Pastor Karen prior to worship on Sunday.

The Worship Committee thanks all of you for your patience and guidance as we have implemented new designs in our worship.

Scenes from Seminary by Eileen Gebbie

Dear community, I hope this finds you well and well cared for. As many of you know, Carla and I moved to Chicago so that I could begin this second step toward ordained ministry in the UCC. Carla is thriving in her work in ethics administration at Northwestern and we both love the lake. I went to Tower Hill, the UCC camp, with my incoming class for four days of sharing where we came from, where we see ourselves going, our obstacles, and our needs/tools. My cohort represents the UCC, Mennonite, Episcopalian, Unitarian, Pentecostal, AME, Assemblies of God, Quaker, Presbyterian, Nazarene, and Anglican churches. We are equally diverse in our racial, socioeconomic, age, physical, and partnering make-up. It was one of the most positive experiences of my life. We are all beloved of God, and because of that, Chicago Theological Seminary is holding us accountable to each other, no matter our differences. My courses in history, the Bible, worship, and counseling are compelling, intellectually stimulating, and spiritually agitating. My worship instructor says the purpose of liturgy is to enact the central shapes of Christian life. In worship we learn, teach, and demonstrate what it means to be Christian. How do I take the passing of the peace to the dry cleaner, the gas station, the beach? Are my interactions with strangers as warm and genuine as they are, say, with Jean Due and Paul Kordik? My professor went on to say that trust is the true religious question. These three years are promising to be rich and I hope, through this column, you will enjoy hearing about it, as well as hearing my thanks for your support and care.



Progressive Christianity Discussion Group

Would you like to learn more about progressive Christianity? If so, we hope that you can participate in an interesting DVD/ Discussion series called Living the Questions. For the last 2 years, some of us have been viewing and talking about some of the concepts of Progressive Christianity via a once a month class meeting in our home. We have used two of the series three 7 - session DVDs, and are planning to use the third one this year. Since each episode really stands alone, it would be lovely to have some new voices join us at this time. This year's classes are called "Reclaiming the World" and cover such topics as "the Prophetic Jesus", "Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love", and "Practicing Resurrection". The format of the program is a short reading assignment (which we read together during our meetings), viewing the DVD (which contains interviews and portions of presentations with many leading theologians of today), and a time to discuss how the concepts covered apply to our lives. During the last 2 years, we havemet on the first Monday of each month in our home, (although this is negotiable, depending on who would like to participate. If you would like to join us, or if you would like more information, please call or contact Jeanne or Tom Ward at 344-1619 or jeawa@comcast.net.

Building Renovation Update

Great progress is being made on the building renovation project! Work includes installation of the new heating and cooling system, new kitchen walls and floors, and upgraded landscaping along the church sidewalks. Over the next few weeks condensing units will be installed on the parlor roof, the electrical system will be upgraded to support the new units, and work on the kitchen will continue. The fellowship hall should be available for our use again in the next week or two and new water heaters will once again give us hot water in the upstairs kitchen. The project is on budget and should be completed around the end of October. Thank you to everyone who has made accommodations and tolerated the dust during the construction. It will be well worth it.

Your Building & Grounds Team

Do You Have Musical Talents To Share?

The Chancel choir and Chime choir are resuming our normal rehearsal schedule for fall, and would like to invite any interested singers and/or chimers to join us. Your talents would be most welcome.

Rehearsal schedules are as follows:

Chancel choir meets every Wednesday from 7:00 PM to 8:30 pm, and Sunday morning at 9:25 am.

Chime choir meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

Also, if you play a musical instrument and would be able to provide a musical selection(s) for a worship service, please contact Bob Smith, Choir Director.

Get Your Recipes Ready!

As part of this year's Stewardship Campaign, the Financial Development is also hoping to create a CUCC cookbook containing recipes of all those fabulous items that keep turning up at our church pot-lucks. We are going to need about 300 recipes to make a complete book, so start hunting for your favorites now! We are still coordinating with all the various committees, but Stewardship Sunday will most likely be in Mid to Late November.

Financial Development Team,
Michelle Franke & Vicky Robertson

Search Committee Update

The Senior Pastor Search Committee is continuing to make progress toward our goal! To date, the committee has reviewed approximately 75 candidate profiles, conducted about a dozen phone interviews, and met with 5 candidates for face-to-face interviews in Champaign-Urbana. The face-to-face meetings have consisted of a formal interview, informal interactions with the candidates, and a worship experience (either at a neutral pulpit or in a smaller setting with the Search Committee).

We are now to the point at which we are considering finalists so wanted to share what the next steps will look like. Once a final candidate has been identified, information about the candidate will be mailed to the congregation along with the date for the "Candidating Weekend." On that weekend, the congregation will have the opportunity to interact with the candidate in an informal setting on a Saturday, and then the candidate will lead the service of worship on Sunday. Following worship, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on the candidate. That meeting will include a review of the process that the committee undertook, additional information about the candidate and the compensation package (which will have been reviewed and agreed to by the Church Life Board by that point), and a chance to ask questions of the Search Committee.

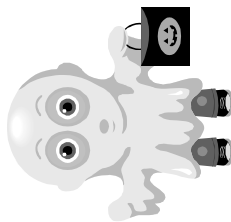
We are excited to be at this point in the process. Please speak with any member of the Search Committee if you have any questions about the search process.

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



OCTOBER 2009

Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday *Sunday Schedule 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am - 12:00 pm Worship and Community Time 6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group 7:00 pm SET Meeting 7:30 pm AA	Monday <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> CUCC Office Hours Monday Through Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm </div>			1 7 am Men's Fellowship @ Urbana Gardens 10 am International Group 2 pm - 4 pm Campus Ministry Open House 6 pm Search Committee	2 5 pm UCC Campus Ministry	3 9 am Women's Book Group
4 *See Schedule Blood Pressure Screening immediately following worship service	5 Campus Ministry Choir (Time, TBD)	6 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms)	7 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chime Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm Campus Ministry Sanctuary	8 10 am International Group 1:30 pm Women's Fellowship 2 pm - 4 pm Campus Ministry Open House 6 pm Search Committee 8 pm AA	9 5 pm UCC Campus Ministry	10 9 am Women's Book Group
11 *See Schedule	12 Campus Ministry Choir (Time, TBD) Columbus Day	13 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms)	14 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm Campus Ministry Sanctuary	15 10 am International Group 2 pm - 4 pm Campus Ministry Open House 6 pm Search Committee 8 pm AA	16 5 pm UCC Campus Ministry	17 9 am Women's Book Group
18 *See Schedule	19 Campus Ministry Choir (Time, TBD)	20 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classroom)	21 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chime Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm Campus Ministry Sanctuary	22 10 am International Group 2 pm - 4 pm Campus Ministry Open House 6 pm Search Committee 8 pm AA Communigram Deadline	23 5 pm UCC Campus Ministry	24 9 am Women's Book Group
25 *See Schedule	26 Campus Ministry Choir (Time, TBD)	27 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms)	28 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm Campus Ministry Sanctuary	29 10 am International Group 2 pm - 4 pm Campus Ministry Open House 6 pm Search Committee 8 pm AA	30 5 pm UCC Campus Ministry	31 9 am Women's Book Group <div style="text-align: right;"> </div>

Message From the Faith Community Nurse

As you have no doubt heard, the H1N1 Influenza A is already present in our community. By taking responsibility for your health, knowing the signs and symptoms of the flu and taking a few precautions, you will protect yourself and those around you.

Signs and symptoms of H1N1 Influenza A include:

- A fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Acute onset of respiratory illness
- Muscle or joint pain
- GI symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain)

To protect yourself from influenza:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Use alcohol based sanitizers when soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Keep commonly-touched surfaces like keyboards, pens, doorknobs and phones sanitized.

Stop the spread of the flu:

- Stay home if you are sick. The current recommendation is to stay home 24 hours after your temperature returns to normal without taking any fever-reducing medicines (Tylenol, Advil, etc)
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve. Cough into your elbow, not your hand.
- If you are in a high-risk group: Pregnant, asthma, heart disease, immune compromised, diabetes, or other underlying health condition, and develop symptoms, CALL YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IMMEDIATELY.

Additional info at www.c-uphd.org

Stay healthy, we miss you when you are sick!

Linda Morgan, Faith Community Nurse

The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity: Community, Peace, Justice, Environment

By calling ourselves progressive, we mean we are Christians who form ourselves into communities dedicated to equipping one another for the work we feel called to do: striving for peace and justice among all people, protecting and restoring the integrity of all God's creation, and bringing hope to those Jesus called the least of his sisters and brothers.

The Center for Progressive Christianity (tcpu.org)

Are You Interested In Joining Our Church Family?

We'd love to have you as an official part of Community. If you think you might be interested in membership, or if you don't know, but would like to have more information about us as a church and the UCC as a denomination, we'd love to have you as part of our fall membership class. The class will consist of a get-to-know-each-other lunch, and then a follow up class of several hours to share information about who we are and what we are about. The exact dates will be decided upon based on what works for the people involved. If you are interested in coming to these new member orientation sessions, please either contact Jeanne Ward for more information (344-1619, jeawa@comcast.net) or contact the church office to sign up (344-5091, info@community-ucc.org). We'll look forward to hearing from you!

A Big Welcome Back To Our Sunday Morning Staff!

The church is pleased to welcome back our staff members for our nursery, our children's choir, and our yoga time. Ms. Lauren Knutsen, Ms. Kathryn Scott, and Ms. Jessica Bush will be returning to care for our children. They will be present in the church nursery from 8:30 am until the end of church services every Sunday. Both Lauren and Kathryn would also like to be considered as possible babysitters for church members who may need a little break from their little ones on occasion. Please contact Lauren at knutsen2@illinois.edu or Kathryn at kjscott2@illinois.edu for their availability. Ms. Colie Huppert will be rotating with Ms. Kathryn Scott as yoga instructor. Ms. Christina Vergilio will be resuming the task of Children's Choir Director. Both Children's Choir and Yoga time meet in Fellowship Hall directly following the Children's Moment for children 5 and up. We wish that you and yours would please take advantage of the wonderful services we offer here at CUCC on Sunday mornings!

Memorial Funds

In September after consultation with the family members, memorial gifts from the friends and family of John Due were dedicated to the Building Fund after being read into the record of the CLB meeting.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously in honor of John's life and work.

Vicky Robertson
Co-Chair FRDT

Thank You!

Dear CUCC,

Contributions of many kinds assisted in our mission of providing quality, affordable housing to deserving citizens. Your donation of a desk to the Restore continues your ongoing support.

Thank you!

George Kieffer
Habitat for Humanity. Board Member

Women's Fellowship Meeting

The Women's Fellowship Group will meet on October 8th at 1:30 PM at the TIMES Center. The hostess will be Marianna Janssen and we will be taking a tour of the facility.

Fall Work Day

Please save the date for the upcoming Fall Work Day. It will be held on Saturday November 7th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. More details will follow as the date approaches. Hope to see you there!

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SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School

9:15 am Choir Rehearsal

10:15 am Worship

After the Children's Time,

Children up to 4 years old are welcome
in the nursery.

11:30 am Community Time

6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group

Label

The next Communion will be mailed out on October 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 Nurse:

Linda Morgan

Community Life Calendar Keeper:

David Gerstenecker

calendar@community-ucc.org

Child Care Providers: Jessica Bush,

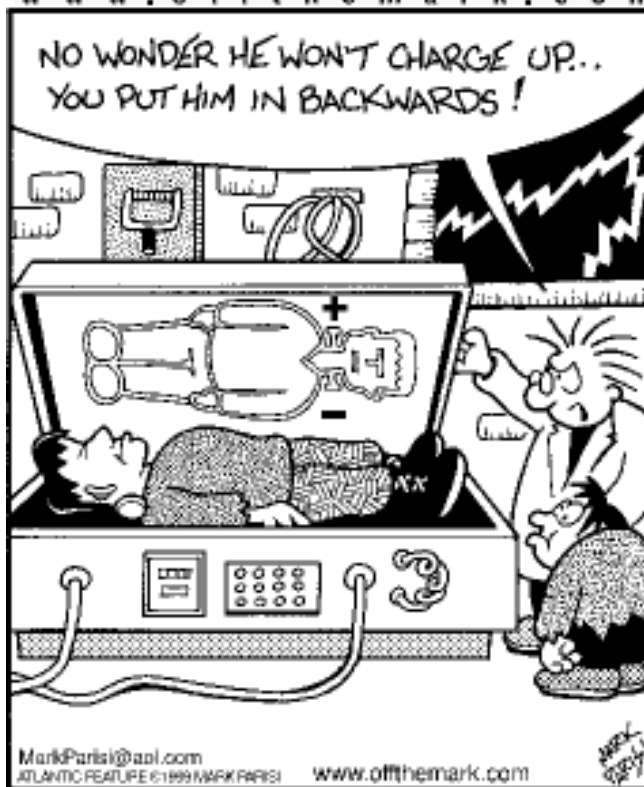
Lauren Knutsen, and Kathryn Scott

Children's Choir Director:

Christina Vergilio

cvirgil3@illinois.edu

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www.offthemark.com



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