

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

COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 11 OCTOBER 27, 2008

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Dear Community Family,

I very much enjoy reading the devotionals that I receive via email each day. These brief statements, crafted by members of our congregation, provide wonderful insights into why so many of you have come to and remain at CUCC. There are several themes, including the important missions of our church, the diversity of our congregation and the programming provided to our children and adults.

You have heard me say/write often over the past several months that I have come to realize how great CUCC has been during this difficult time of transition. The reasons of which are illustrated in these devotionals.

There is another time of giving upon us. Not just the financial kind. Our nominating committee, led by Scott Bush, will be contacting individuals to ask them to be part of the church's leadership for the next year. Everyone's time is valuable. I do ask that you consider how you can spend some time, no matter what amount, in helping to guide the church. This can be as part of the Church Life Board, as a committee member/chair, teaching Sunday school, etc. Together we can/are making a difference in our community.

Take care,

Stig Lannesskog

WORSHIP AT COMMUNITY UCC

November 2 - Kellee Weinhold

November 9 - Jan Dobson

November 16 - Eileen Gebbie

November 23 - Rev. Karen Bush

November 30 - Patricia Donahue

(1st Sunday in Advent)

The Deadline for the Next Communigram is *November 20th at Noon*, it will be sent out on the 25th.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear CUCC family and friends.

Hello! I hope this letter and Communigram find you well and at peace. If not, please know that, as your Transitional Pastor, I care about that and would want to know. Each one of you is precious and inimitable around the family table. We are at the beginning point of a whole new adventure here at Community UCC. We would love to have you and your family come with us. Where ever you are on your life's journey, you are invited to join in our community life together as a living experience of the Body of Christ.

If you haven't recently, why don't you come join us for Sunday worship here at Community United Church of Christ? We are having the time of our lives.

Blessings to each of you~

Pastor Karen

(This next section of the pastoral letter is taken from Pastor Karen's sermon given at Community Sunday November 26.)

“ Together you and I are on an incredible journey; a journey to search of meaning for our lives at this intersection of human history. We have been through some things together. We have had some ups and some downs, as is the case of human life and community.

This being said, we are all part of a church, which has an amazing and unique story all its own in Champaign Urbana. A story which, in the 1860s, involves one of its children being ridiculed and beaten for being part of what was known locally as the anti-slavery church. The Goose Pond church that was the only place in town where young lawyer named Abraham Lincoln found a warm welcome and an open pulpit to speak.

A church whose members have supported, encouraged and challenged one another to private and public acts of compassion and justice-making for over a century. Of Louise Leonard and Jack Easley, of Mildred Williams and Frieda Wascher and countless others who have gone before us and who dedicated themselves to reach out and grab hold of those around who had been left behind—whether through racism or sexism or homophobia or ignorance or poverty, to name a few of the forces our church has combated over the years.

The names and faces may have changed, but the spirit and calling of Community United Church of Christ remains as strong and determined as ever.

Like the generations before us, you and I are called to discern what God is calling us to as the Body of Christ at this place and in this time in our own life histories and in human history.

I have the audacity to believe that all of this matters. I have the audacity to believe that the existence of, choices of and voice of this congregation matter tremendously. I have the audacity to believe that this congregation matters as an active expression of the Body of Christ not only in each of our lives—not only in the Champaign-Urbana community—but that the voices and choices and presence of this congregation matters in the unfolding history of creation.

I even believe that our most potent and best days as a congregation, as a church family and community of seekers, are in front of us— even with the extraordinary legacy of those who went before. We must carry on to be the most loving, the most effective, the most justice-serving and compassionate congregation we can authentically be.

**A PRETTY TALL ORDER FOR WE MERE HUMANS—BUT WE ARE NOT ALONE.
AND THIS FACT IS EVERYTHING.” AMEN**

MEET THE NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR AT CUCC

SARAH NOCEDA

Sarah Noceda and her husband, attorney Spencer Watson, are excited to be rejoining the CUCC family. Sarah will be taking over the position of Religious Education director while her husband practices law at a firm in Bloomington. Sarah was an active member of UCF all through university and, having been married at CUCC, the couple is happy to be having a homecoming of sorts. Sarah and Spencer enjoy foreign movies, anything to do with food — cooking and eating it — and board games (but not RISK, it's too hard!). Although they are sad to be leaving St. Pauls' UCC in Chicago, where they first made their home as a married couple, they are very excited to embark on a new relationship with CUCC.

STEWARDSHIP - STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 9TH

"The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof." Barbara Kingsolver.

Growing up in my family, giving was not an option. It was a requirement. Like brushing your teeth or making sure you had on clean underwear, the charity rules were non-negotiable: Find a cause you believe in. Get involved. Make community with people (even if you don't agree with them). No matter how little money you have (and in those days we had close to nothing), give some of it to support your mission in the world. And, when it's all said and done, you will have left things better than you found them.

My parents led (and continue to lead) by example and we, my three sibling and I, do as we were taught.

My father is a hunter. He gives money to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited. My brother is a former all-American golfer. He gives time and money to the Oregon Athletic Fund and to the PGA charity golf tournament he organizes in Oregon each year. My other brother is an avid environmentalist and Buddhist. He donates money and endless volunteer hours to implementing region-wide recycling near Carbondale, Colorado. My sister handles the books for a couple of small philanthropic organizations, but her most time consuming work is raising two teenagers. She donates money, time and financial expertise to two different schools, six different sports teams and two different outdoor clubs. My mother has deep family ties to Mexico. She donates her time and money to local organizations devoted to improving high school retention rates and college attendance among the Latino community in Southern Oregon. She also helps support the library and English classes of a small village in Mexico that she calls home for a portion of the year. My work as a writer involves speaking and writing about the families of murder victims. I am dedicated to bringing an end to violence in our homes and in our streets. I give my time and money to organizations that respond to violence against women and groups that work to create safe homes and neighborhoods. I also give my time and money to CUCC.

I give my money to CUCC because whether I agree with one person or another or am moved by one sermon or another or enjoy one hymn or another, I know that, at its core, this church is dedicated to stopping harm, healing wounds and easing hurt. That fits my mission, so it gets my time and money.

Logic tells me that if you are taking the time and making the effort to come to CUCC, then you believe in what it stands for, you see it as somehow in line with your own personal mission in the world. So, as you look over the pledge worksheet included in this Communigram and consider what to put on the green pledge card, consider the invaluable advice my parents gave me: Get involved. Make community with people (even if you don't agree with them). And no matter how little it may seem, give a portion of your income to support your mission in the world. When it's all said and done, you will have made things better than you found them.

Kellee Weinhold

SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dear CUCC-

I am pleased to announce that we have formed the search committee for the new settled (full-time and permanent) minister. Many individuals indicated their desire to assist with the search. I was grateful to be able to select from so many wonderful individuals.

Grant Robbennolt will be the chair of the committee. Grant has experience with pastoral search committees and his parents are/have been UCC ministers. I am thankful that he is willing to serve in this capacity. The other members of the search committee are:

Carl Duffield, Ruth Fisher, Michelle Franke, Sophie Gerstenecker, Caryl Henkel, Anna Mehl

Our search process will begin right away. Please let Grant or I know if you have any questions. I know we all look forward to a successful process.

Take care,

Stig Lanesskog

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION CLASS

Interested in Membership in Community? We'd love to have you join us!

If you are interested in learning more about CUCC and are wondering about membership here, please join us for our Fall Membership Orientation Class! We will learn about the United Church of Christ as a denomination, find out more about our church in particular and how it is organized, and discuss what values and beliefs are important to us as a congregation. There is no pressure to join, but if you should decide you are ready after learning more, we will get together again to determine a date for membership Sunday and talk about the service. We will be meeting on Saturday, November 8th, from 9 - 12. Refreshments will be provided, and we'd be happy to have childcare if you let us know that you need it. Please contact the church office (344-5091 or info@community-ucc.org) to sign up so we can be sure to have enough orientation materials (and food) prepared. (Also call if you are interested in membership, but are unable to attend on this date.)

WEEKLY CAMPUS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Mon 9:30 pm ~ Campus Ministry Choir
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 11 am. ~ Rev. Bush's Drop In Hour.
Wednesdays 9 pm ~ Sanctuary Meditation Time
Thursday 2-4 pm ~ Open House
Fridays 5 pm ~ Chapel

Fridays 6 pm ~ Campus Ministry Community Supper
Fridays 6:45 ~ Revolving Friday Program
For further program or other information please email Rev. Karen at ks-bush@illinois.edu

FRIDAY PROGRAM SCHEDULE

11/7 - Worship and Supper w/ Hillel
 11/14 - Hardy's Reindeer Ranch
 11/21 and 11/28 - BREAK

COMING UP!

Citrus Sale! - details below
 Sunday the 16th - Thanksgiving Feast - 5 pm
 Sundays - SET meetings - Noon, Religious Ramblings - 1 pm

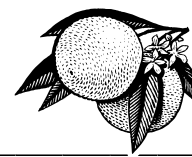
CITRUS SALE

Delicious citrus that taste the way fruit was meant to taste!

The **first three Sundays** in November, we will be selling citrus to help raise money for the UCC Campus Ministry and its special programs such as our Break-Away Trip to Louisiana to help with hurricane recovery.. We will be selling Hamlin oranges and red grapefruit from the Texan Red River Valley plus mixed boxes both small, large AND combo gift baskets.

The dates of the sale are: Nov. 2, Nov. 9 and Nov. 16. Citrus will arrive in town by the end of the 2nd week in December. To place their order just come to our table in the parlor after Sunday worship or call/email Pastor Karen.

The students in the UCC Campus Ministry thank CUCC for your support in this and so many of our programs!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

The Women's Fellowship will be attending

World Community Day

November 7th at Grace Lutheran Church, 313 S. Prospect Champaign
9:30-11:00 AM child Care Provided

Please bring toothbrushes and 4 oz. bottles of toothpaste
to be collected and sent to the Women's Prison in Decatur.

See you there!

Habitat for Humanity, UI Student Build

This past Saturday (October 18, 2008), CUCC folks jumped in to help out and provide lunch for the volunteers at the current Habitat build at 708 N. Goodwin in Champaign. It was a beautiful sunny day. The students were amazed and delighted with being offered such wonderful array of healthy, tasty food.

Special thanks to:

- Karen Bush for the Halloween cookies complete with PURPLE frosting.
- Jim Carnahan for being not only a ground turkey BURGER guy, but an APPLE guy and a SODA guy, too.
- Jan Dobson for all of the OH-SO-SOFT and tasty whole wheat burger buns.
- Jean Due for the UNDERPINNINGS of the perfect burger: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, relish, and cheese as well as the recyclable serving containers.
- Art Durfee for joining the ranks of the ground turkey BURGER guys.
- Michelle Franke for the charcoal and ALL NATURAL lighter fluid that made it possible to grill on site.
- Ken Gilbert for whole wheat pasta salad with SHREDDED RAW FENNEL along with garden tomatoes for slicing.
- Caryl Henkel for her pasta salad with garden-fresh PEAR TOMATOES as well as fruit punch and cheese for burgers.
- Seiji and Miyako Iwata for packing, unpacking, setting up the serving tables and taste testing the cookies — along with some CARTWHEELS in the grass.
- Burt and Iris Swanson for gallons of REFRESHING lemonade and iced tea.
- Peg Wade for her pasta salad with CHEESE and PEPPERONI!
- Jeanne Ward for CRISP, GREEN lettuce for burgers and a bbq ESSENTIAL— potato chips.
- Tom Ward for being the GRILL master on site (AKA an old man cooking burgers)
- Kellee Weinhold for homemade veggie burgers and the grill to cook them on.
- Ellen Willcox for inviting CUCC to take part in the build and making it possible to eat the food by providing the MADE FROM 100% RECYCLED PAPER plates along with forks and knives and napkins AND fresh garden tomatoes.

Heard on site:

Student 1: "Three PASTA salads! Wow, which one should I choose?"

Student 2: "Are you kidding? I'm not choosing! I am having them all!"

Student 3: Look at these tomatoes! I LOVE fresh tomatoes!

Student 4: Do you think there is a cookie limit? Do you think three is over the limit?





All Church Farm Bonfire Cookout!

Sunday November 2, 4-7 pm on the Barnhart Prairie Farm
(about 2 miles south of Urbana where Karen grew up)

All church families and friends are invited! Bring your friends along for a full community affair. An event for the whole family!

Hot dogs, veggies dogs, drinks, chips and dessert— sunset, stars, coyote howling, fresh air and live music provided. Watch your email for maps and more details this week. For more information, talk to Scott or Karen Bush.

COUNTERING PHARAOH'S PRODUCTION: CONSUMPTION SOCIETY TODAY



A five-week study and discussion for adults. Facilitated by Tom Watembach

November 16, 23; December 7, 14 and 21

This new five-week study from the Center for Progressive Christianity features Walter Brueggemann, famed Hebrew scripture scholar, retired Columbia Theological Seminary professor, UCC minister, and author.

The series focuses on the Exodus story from the Hebrew Scripture. It shows how all of God's people – from Israelites fleeing the slavery of Pharaoh's Egypt to today's Christians battling consumerism – struggle with the temptation to hang onto the status quo and things that enslave us, rather than step out of our comfort zone and claim God's promise of freedom from sin and bondage.

*"It is a journey from slavery to covenant that we keep making over and over again . . .
[because] Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery."
– Walter Brueggemann*

WARNING: THIS STUDY MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE, AND POTENTIALLY COULD HELP RESTORE THE MEANING OF COVENANT.



Sunday School teachers needed to present

LUKE'S CHRISTMAS STORY

to grades K-5

This is a three-week commitment for the weeks indicated below:

Rotation 1 – November 9, 16, 23

or

Rotation II – November 30, December 7, 14

This is a great time to teach – everyone knows the Christmas story and the activities are fun.

We need you! Please help!

To volunteer or for more information, contact Ellen Kordik, 355-8422, ekordik@illinois.edu.



On Saturday, December 13TH, 2008

The CUCC Choir will present:

Madrigals, Morsels & Merriment!

Enjoy the sound of singing, tasty treats and laughter as you are taken back to the time of the Renaissance Period with colorful costumes, dialogue and skits. You won't want to miss this and you may want to make plans now to bring your friends!

Performances at 12:30 and 3:00. Tickets: \$12. 50.

EL DIO DE LOS MUERTOS (THE DAY OF THE DEAD)

An All-Church Celebration - For all ages, from youngest to oldest.

SUNDAY , NOVEMBER 2nd, 9-10 am

Two great happenings in one fun hour!!

1 -- Come meet our new Religious Education Director, Sarah Noceda

It will be her first week with us in her new position

2 -- We join our Mexican sisters and brothers in celebrating

The tradition of the Day of the Dead teaches us death is not to be feared.

Death is a part of life.

Fun activities for everyone

Eat breakfast treats and socialize with friends.

Story-telling under the tent.

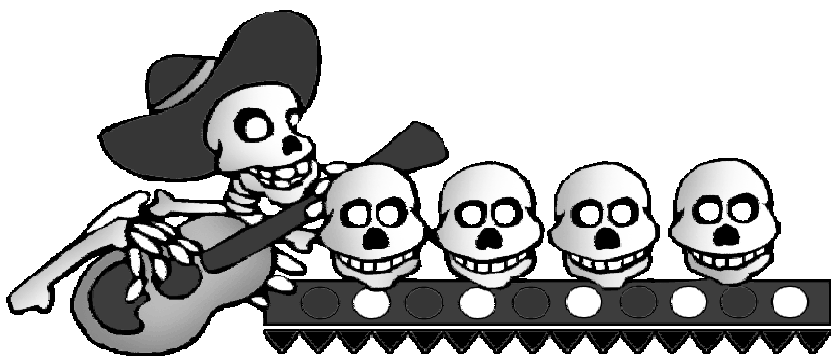
Design clothes for a skeleton friend.

Color and decorate a skeleton mask.

Make colorful Mexican paper flowers.

Face-painting for children.

Videos about El Dio de los Muertos.



NOVEMBER 2008

Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar

"It is literally true, as the thankful say, that they have nothing to be thankful for. He who sits by the fire, thankful for the fire, is just as if he had no fire. Nothing is possessed save in appreciation, of which thankfulness is the indispensable ingredient. But a thankful heart hath a continual feast." ~W.J. Cameron

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2*Sunday Schedule 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour Free Blood Pressure Checks 6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group 7:30 pm AA Bonfire at 4 pm Daylight Savings - Fall Back! | 3 9 pm Campus Ministry Choir Rehearsal | 4 6 pm Operation Snowball 6:30 Overeaters Anonymous | 5 Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal | 6 10 am International Group 7 pm Breathing Space 8 pm AA | 7 5 pm Campus Ministry Chapel | 8 9 am Women's Book Group 9 am New Members Class |
| 9 *See Schedule Above Stewardship Sunday | 10 9 pm Campus Ministry Choir Rehearsal | 11 6 pm Operation Snowball 6:30 Overeaters Anonymous | 12 Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chime Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal | 13 10 am International Group 7 pm Breathing Space 7:30 pm Church Life Board 8 pm AA | 14 5 pm Campus Ministry Chapel | 15 9 am Women's Book Group |
| 16 *See Schedule Above | 17 9 pm Campus Ministry Choir Rehearsal | 18 6 pm Operation Snowball 6:30 Overeaters Anonymous | 19 Noon Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal | 20 10 am International Group 7 pm Breathing Space 8 pm AA Communion Deadline | 21 5 pm Campus Ministry Chapel | 22 9 am Women's Book Group 5:30 pm CUCC Cook-off Challenge |
| 23 *See Schedule Above | 24 9 pm Campus Ministry Choir Rehearsal | 25 6 pm Operation Snowball 6:30 Overeaters Anonymous | 26 Noon Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chime Choir 7 pm Choir Rehearsal | 27 <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i> | 28 No Campus Ministry Chapel | 29 9 am Women's Book Group |
| 30 *See Schedule Above | | | | | | |



CUCC Potluck Challenge

A One-Night Two-Event Cooking and Eating Extravaganza

Nov. 22, 2008

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Suggested Ticket Price \$10, but your presence is the most important thing

Event One: The CUCC Iron Chef Throw-down

Iron Chefs Paul Kordik, Paul Offenbecher and Kellee Weinhold will compete against each other in four categories:

1. Best Entrée
2. Best Salad
3. Best Soup
4. Best "Signature Dish"

Watch the show, eat the food, mark a ballot and decide who takes the title of CUCC IRON CHEF!

Event Two: Independent Master Chefs Showcase

CUCC Independent Master Chefs (THAT'S YOU!) enter their own specialty dishes in one of the following categories and wow the crowds with their cooking genius!

- Muffin/Roll/Bread
- Vegetable
- Pasta, potato or other starch.
- Slow Cooker/Crock Pot
- Casserole
- Smoked/Grilled/Slow Roasted
- Cookies/Bars/Brownies/Cakes/Sweets
- JELLO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Take Out Made to Look Homemade

Fabulous Prizes for every entry.

To enter, fill out the entry card and return it to the church office care of CUCC POTLUCK

CHALLENGE along with your \$5.00 entry fee per category entered before Nov. 20th. (More entry forms are available at CUCC) On Nov. 22nd between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. bring enough for 25 appetizer-sized portions of your entry (with appropriate serving dishes) to the Fellowship Hall.

Then get ready for some serious eating!

Master Chef: _____

Category: _____

Name of Entry: _____

Don't forget to include your \$5.00 entry fee for your Master Chef entry

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The next Communigram will be mailed out on November 25^h

**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.

11:30 am Coffee Hour

6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group

Happy Thanksgiving!

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.

CHURCH STAFF

Transition Pastor/Campus Minister:

Rev. Karen Bush
karen@community-ucc.org

Choir Director: Robert Smith
smithrob@champaignschools.org

Organist: Linda Vaughn
lindavaughn@community-ucc.org

Office Manager: Katie Eden
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: Jessica Bush

