

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

# COMMUNIGRAM

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 3

MARCH 1, 2010

## Lent Continues...

### Sunday, March 7th

Micah 6:8, *What is Required of Us?*

Blessing of new Driver's Licenses

### Sunday, March 14th

James 2:14-17, *Faith Without Works*

Special Worship Music led by CUCC's guitarists

### Sunday, March 21st

Luke 4:16-21, *Jesus' Mission Statement*

Baptism of Addison Wolfe, daughter of Carol and Marcus Wolfe

### Sunday, March 28th

Palm Sunday Worship, Matthew 21:1-17, *Turning the Tables*

Palm Parade during worship and Kid's Palm Party (see page 5)

### Thursday, April 1st

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship, John 13:1-15, *I have set an example for You*  
(see page 2 for details)

### Friday, April 2nd

Good Friday Worship, Luke 22:39-23:56, *Christ: Crucified with the World*

### Sunday, April 4th

Easter Worship, Luke 24:1-12, *Ordinary made Extraordinary*



A JOURNEY  
through Lent  
of Mission, Service and Justice



## CUCC'S MISSION:

# POSSIBLE

The deadline for the next Communigram is *March 23rd at Noon.*

## Letters from Leah

Paul began his letter to the church at Philippi this way:

*...I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,\*for all of you share in God's grace,with me...*

As I sit and think back over my Installation weekend here at CUCC, Paul's words drift into my head. They echo my thoughts as I remember scenes from the weekend. I cannot help but feel as if God has "begun a good work" among us.

I am moved by what happened during our leadership mini-retreat which Angie lead for us on Saturday morning. What could have been "just another meeting" was transformed into a sacred space wherein we celebrated, worshipped and, yet, asked tough questions of ourselves. I left the retreat invigorated and looking forward to what God has in store for CUCC's future, especially with such passionate, capable, faithful people at the helm.

Sunday's Mission: Possible announcement was a hoot! From the theme music to costumes, flash paper to packing peanuts, it was fun. We were all laughing. And, then, at communion time, I saw some tears, not because people were upset, but because people were moved. The shift of our symbols from the Altar to the Table made an impact. I hadn't connected all the pieces until later in the day, but later realized that this shift from Altar and sacrifice to Table and community may have resonated deeply with you, especially those of you who gave so much during the transition time.

Then came the Installation worship service with everyone (including the choir!) in red. So many personal moments moved me: dear Angie's sermon, David and my parents in attendance, processing with David at my side along with CTS friends, Rev. Dave Stewart and Rev. Bob Bond, who is also Chloe's Godfather. Our souls were stirred as the Spirit Glider flew and fluttered above our heads. I was moved by the children surrounding me and laying hands on me – what a powerful surprise. Finally, there was the moment when Rev. Norwalk announced that I was duly installed! And you all applauded! It's official! I'm your pastor. My first official act was to watch you be anointed into mutual ministry. Glorious.

I emerged from the weekend blessedly exhausted and grateful to be here among you. Thank you for a wonderful weekend. Thanks to everyone who help in make it special: the choir, the worship team, the kitchen crew, Michelle Franke and everyone who attended Saturday's mini-retreat, those who stayed after worship on Sunday to dress the chancel, the children's choir...everyone, thank you. Here's to our future.

Blessings,

Leah

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## Holy Week @ CUCC

### *Walk With Christ this year for Holy Week*

On **Sunday, March 28th**, we will gather for **Palm Sunday** worship. Kids will want to be here EARLY that day to line up for the Palm Parade Processional. Our focus in worship will be what happens to Jesus immediately after his grand entrance into Jerusalem: the infamous temple scene where tables go flying.

On **Thursday, April 2nd**, we will gather for **Maundy Thursday** worship in our new Fellowship Hall. We will be worshipping around tables, throughout dinner which will be provided by our Justice League. (A freewill offering will be taken for the cost of dinner – all proceeds go towards their Mission Trip and trip to the Regional Youth Event this summer.) It's a unique worship experience full of table conversations and "leftovers communion". Childcare will be provided for this special service.

On **Friday, April 2nd**, we will gather in the sanctuary for **Good Friday** worship. Our worship will chronicle the last moments of Jesus life and explore parallels in our modern existence: wherever people suffer, Christ suffers too. Christ is crucified with the world. Childcare will be provided for young children.

On **Sunday, April 4th**, our **Easter** festival worship will be filled with special music, liturgy, and storytelling. A wonderful celebration awaits. Invite your friends!



## Mission: Possible Update

Our Mission: Possible Project is in full swing. We are well on our way to paying for dishwasher repairs at the Times Center by reaching our monetary goal of \$3200 (\$1600 from the congregation, \$1600 from our Lenten Mission fund) collecting 70 compact umbrellas for Times Center Clients (watch for news about “The Great Umbrella Distribution” – you’ll want to be there!) serving dinner at the Times Center every Sunday evening in March and April.

Thanks, CUCC, for your support of Mission: Possible 2010. Just as Jesus sent his disciples out to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth, you are sent out to do likewise. This is our “Jerusalem year” – our chance to do a local mission project. Lent 2011 will be our “Judea and Samaria year” – our chance to do a mission project with an organization in the Midwest. Finally, Lent 2012 will be our “ends of the earth year” – our chance to do a mission project on a national or global setting. **Mission: Possible** makes mission *possible* at CUCC!

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## “Did you Know? Our Times Center Connections”

**Our Mission: Possible Project at the Times Center has begun. But did you know that without our very own Jan Wilson, this Mission: Possible would be impossible? Read on to find out why:**

Janice Wilson is a citizen of the world but she delivers her service to the world in the Champaign-Urbana Community. Jan assumed the role of Soup Coordinator at the Times Center in 1991. At that time, the center was serving between 25 and 40 men one meal a day. Under her leadership and guidance she doubled the service in the first six months and over the next ten years she aided in the feeding of over 200,000 meals to men, women, and children in the Champaign-Urbana area.

Jan’s role was not limited to administrative duties. She arranged, coordinated, cajoled, organized, and managed that the whole community of Champaign Urbana participate in this program. Jan also coordinated the deliveries of soup to the kitchen, facilitated the return process for all of the containers used in the process, and dealt with the day to day cleaning and maintaining of sanitation levels for all of the food coming through the Times Center.

In addition, Jan brought the Crop Walk, which her and her husband Curt had initiated in Peoria, to the Champaign-Urbana area. In 1992 they coordinated the first local crop walk which raises money for hungry people on both locally and globally.

Jan is an invaluable member of our community. Through her hard work and dedication at the Time Center, she has bettered the lives of tens of thousands of people and we are honored to be able to work with this wonderful organization that is so dear to Jan through our “Mission: Possible” project..

*A special “thank you” to Ruth Gilbert for sharing this information with us!*

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## “Scenes from Seminary” by Eileen Gebbie

([egebbie@ctsichicago.edu](mailto:egebbie@ctsichicago.edu), 217/714-5629)

My courses this semester cover the Hebrew Bible (a continuation from last semester, taught this time by our resident Rabbi), systematic theology (primarily St. Augustine, the first Christian to develop a full theological model), worship and preaching through the Christian year (Lent, Easter, and Pentecost), and “theories of change” (theorists and theologians from Paolo Freire to MLK Jr. to Carter Heyward).

I am finalizing my placement for the summer’s “clinical pastoral education,” a full-time training program in hospital chaplaincy, and my part-time field placement in a UCC church for next school year. While at CUCC for Seminary Sunday, February 28th, the CLB and my Care Committee interviewed me as the initial step for becoming “in care” with the Eastern Illinois Conference in the UCC. This is the first step of the ordination process, which will culminate with my MDiv thesis, ordination paper, oral exams, and another round of letters of recommendation.

In my course work for Lent, Catholic theologian Martin Connell suggested that the season is not about self-punishment or abasement, a single act of giving up or self-depravation. God does not care if we eat chocolate or not. Connell said, instead, that Lent is an opportunity to let go the habits and comforts of society in order to see how very wealthy we are in the grace and love of the divine. Preparing for Easter is not about bruising, but letting holiness fill our hearts and our spiritual coffers, a process our human habits and needs make difficult.

Carla and I are looking forward to opening our heart doors with you!

## Moderator's Musings

I don't know about any of you, but I have been glued to the TV watching the Olympics since they started. I am not very sports minded, but there is something about the Olympics that take it beyond sports for me. I wonder if we could learn something from the athlete's endurance, longevity, and persistence needed to finish their race. Can we apply that same strategy to our lives and our own personal races? Lent seems like a good time to evaluate our own life marathons (or Super G downhill) and what skills we need to finish the race. What do we need to give up to make more room for rest, for renewal, for God?

"What are you giving up for Lent?" Despite my earnest efforts over the years, I usually fail in giving something up. As I have grown, I feel that Lent is not just about fasting; it's about feasting. It is not all about giving things up, there doesn't have to be suffering. It's also about **adding** good things to our lives or to others' lives. Adding simple things can make a strong impact. Over the last few weeks our sermon series has reminded me that we need to give space for rest and revitalization. Maybe Lent is my time to engage in that better. During Lent I challenge you to continue the journey of remembering the Sabbath by making one Lenten promise - to add something good to your routine, thus creating a new rhythm for yourself, for others.

- ✦ Make a Lenten promise to be grateful - count your blessings everyday!
- ✦ Make a Lenten promise to perform acts of kindness through community service. (Mission Possible)
- ✦ Make a Lenten promise to spend 15 minutes to an hour playing with your family each day during Lent.
- ✦ Make a Lenten promise to pray for someone who is in need of prayers.

Make a Lenten promise to spend time in a refreshing, natural spot – outside (even for 15 minutes in this cold) to enjoy some peace and rest and bask in God's glory.

For the Olympics there is symbolic meaning in the lighting of the Olympic flame – for us our flame is the fire of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the bible we find passages referring to running a race and keeping the faith for a wonderful prize. The race we are running is to live with faith knowing that God truly loves us – Lent is the season to remind us of how wonderful God's love is. Our reward, our prize is already manifesting itself to us in the form of new energy inside CUCC and a renewed commitment to our core values... Open & Affirming, Just Peace, and Progressive Christianity.

Michelle Franke

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## Message From the Faith Community Nurse

Prayer by Maya Angelou

Father, Mother, God,  
 Thank you for your presence  
 during the hard and mean days.  
 For then we have you to lean upon.  
 Thank you for your presence  
 during the bright and sunny days,  
 for then we can share that which we have with those who have less.  
 And thank you for your presence  
 during the Holy Days, for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends.  
 For those who have no voice,  
 we ask you to speak.  
 For those who feel unworthy,  
 we ask you to pour your love out  
 in waterfalls of tenderness.  
 For those who live in pain,  
 we ask you to bathe them  
 in the river of your healing.  
 For those who are lonely, we ask  
 you to keep them company.  
 For those who are depressed,  
 we ask you to shower upon them  
 the light of hope.  
 Dear Creator, You, the borderless  
 sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most—Peace.



Submitted by Linda Morgan  
 Faith Community Nurse

## Sunday School Updates

Dear Sunday School Parents:

Spring is almost here and the RE program is gearing up to meet it head on! We inaugurate the new month with the wonderful news that our very own Youth Group has won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in a tie for their entry in a competition sponsored by the "Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center". The topic was "Water as a Human Right". The entry was directed by Paul Kordik and the script was written by all members of the Justice League who then also starred in the video themselves. Please go to our church's Facebook page and website to view the 4 minute YouTube video. Plan on attending services on March 7<sup>th</sup> when Pastor Leah will bless our youth group members who have received their driver's permits. The youth group will host a Maundy Thursday meal of soup and bread-signup sheets will be in the parlor after services. The congregation is invited to attend and leave a donation to support the Justice League's summer trips to the Regional Youth event and their Mission Trip to Chicago. The new confirmation class will start their faith journey this month led by Pastor Leah, Susan Schnuer, and Tom Ward. We are very excited to help guide our young people as they come into a greater role within the church.

As far as the Sunday School program goes, we continue to immerse ourselves in the stories of our faith tradition. The past curriculum rotation was "Jonah the Prophet". The rotation we are working on presently is "Women of the Resurrection". The children have also been learning about the meaning of Lent during Pastor Leah's children's moments. We are in the midst of planning a special Sunday School event for Palm Sunday and there will be activities for Easter Sunday as well. Alongside our usual preschool class held during the service, the pilot program involving the second K/1 class held concurrently will be extended into another semester. A big thank you to Karen Bush's family for the donation of a new rocking chair for the nursery, it is much appreciated! Congratulations to our children's choir on their participation in Pastor Leah's Installation service on Feb. 21st. They shared the song, "All Good Gifts" from the musical, 'Godspell' complete with sign language. They were just precious!

Lastly, don't forget to sign up your young ones for one of the many camps sponsored by the Conference for this summer! Grandparents and Me Camp, Tenderfoot camp (for first time campers) and Leadership Camp are waiting for you! Registration forms are available in the Church parlor and we would like parents to know that the Christian Education committee is prepared to pay a portion of the registration fee for each camper. There are discounts available depending on registration date and number of children registered. This is a truly unforgettable summer experience for our young ones!

Once again, thank you for all that you do!

Sarah J. Noceda

RE Director

[sjnoceda@yahoo.com](mailto:sjnoceda@yahoo.com)

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## UCC Campus Ministry News

### The Sweetheart Dinner Was A Rousing Success!

Our heartfelt thank you to everyone at CUCC who helped support our Sweetheart Dinner Saturday the 13th. Whether you came to the Greek Isles with us or supporting us with tender from afar, we appreciate it.

Thanks to you, we were able to raise just under \$1000 which will go directly to support BreakAway 2010 to Jackson, Mississippi. Trip participants will not only have the privilege of serving others through the agency of Habitat for Humanity but will come away with a more thorough appreciation of the bloody and courageous unfolding of the civil rights movement. We will see first hand many of the places and spaces where many of our country's heroes (Dr. King, Medger Evers, Rosa Parks...) lived, led and died in the call for justice and freedom. On previous BreakAway trips to Jackson we have even had the extraordinary privilege to sit down with individuals who walked along side Dr. King and Medger Evers as their companions and friends.

My consistent hope for each of our BreakAway trips is that the hearts of student participants will be literally be broken open into greater compassion through new understandings and appreciation for the devastating impact of poverty and prejudice in the lives of those who we meet (and in our country and throughout the world). I believe that to enable the deepening the compassion of even one person can bring about change in the world that is beyond measure.

So I thank you, CUCC, for the countless ways you support and enable this ministry-- and for coming out in support for our journey together to Mount Olympus last Saturday night.

Rev. Karen Bush

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## Calling All Softball Players!

For the past couple of years, CUCC has had a softball team in the Champaign Urbana Community Church softball league. We are once again looking for players to play in the Competitive Co-Rec Division (don't let the word Competitive scare you—it just means they use traditional softball rules instead of letting everyone bat each lineup). Games are on Monday nights and will start the middle of April and play through the beginning of August (with time off for summer holidays). If you are interested in playing, please contact Denise or Tony Oligney-Estill by no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>. You can reach us at 398-2024 or [denise.oe1@gmail.com](mailto:denise.oe1@gmail.com) or [tony.oe4@gmail.com](mailto:tony.oe4@gmail.com). The team registration fee is \$400.00. Typically, the folks on the team have banded together to pay this fee since the church has not had the money to do so. The amount it will cost to play will depend on how many folks are interested in playing. Even if you have only played softball on a casual basis, we welcome you. We have a great time and hope you'll be able to join us!

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## Church Women United

Church Women United will meet on Friday, March 5th at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at Pilgrim Fellowship Baptist Church located at 1310 North 6th Street Champaign, IL 61820, phone number (217) 356-9633. The order of worship is provided by the World Day of Prayer, Cameroon Committee.

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## CUCC on the Web

Did you know that you can watch Pastor Leah's previous weeks' sermons on our church's YouTube channel, online at <http://www.youtube.com/communityucc> Pastor Leah also invites you to read and comment on her blog, which can be found online at <http://communityucc.blogspot.com>. Please check out these sites and share anything that you find interesting with your friends and family!

For these links, and more about the church, check out our website at <http://www.community-ucc.org/home/>

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## Passionate Volunteers Welcome!

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is looking for persons who are ready to become joyful volunteers participating in Works of Mercy at our Soup Kitchen. Here you will find eagerness and commitment to do God's work with others like yourself. (Active retired persons are ideal!) In particular, we are looking for folks able to work Fridays. However, all other daily crews will welcome you with open arms and work to do. Call Clare at 359-8500 or Ellen at 356-7101 and come on board today!

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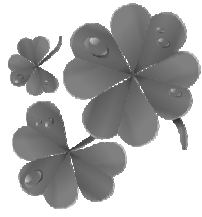
## Volunteer Opportunity at Provena Hospice

Provena Hospice is recruiting compassionate and caring volunteers to provide comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families. If you are able to sit with a patient, be a friend or provide encouragement to family members, help with office duties, or visit bereaved families, this may be the opportunity you are looking for. The Volunteer Training Program will be held at Provena Hospice, 1501 Interstate Dr., on March 2nd, 9th, and 16 and March 4th, 11th, and 18th from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Please call Christy Daly at 217-353-3441 for more information.

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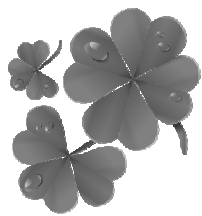
## Spring Association Meeting

The Spring Association meeting of the Eastern Association, Illinois Conference, is being planned for Sunday, May 2, 2010 and will be held at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Grant Park, IL with an overall theme of "Mission!" Circle the Date!



# MARCH 2010

## Community United Church of Christ Events Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 7:30 pm Adult Small Group at the Blind Pig 9 pm Campus Ministry Choir  <i>Worship Theme: What is Required of Us?</i>	<b>2</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms)	<b>3</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm Campus Ministry Sanctuary	<b>4</b> 7 am Men's Fellowship @ Urbana Gardens 10 am International Group 1:30 pm Women's Fellowship 8 pm AA	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Church Women United 5 pm Campus Ministry	<b>6</b> 9 am Women's Book Group	
<b>7</b> *See Schedule 9:00 am Adult Small Group Meeting  <i>Worship Theme: What is Required of Us?</i>	<b>9</b> 5:15 pm CUCC Staff Meeting 6 pm Operation Snowball 7PM Pastoral Relations	<b>10</b> 11 am - 2 pm CM Open House 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chime Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 10 am International Group 1:30 pm Women's Fellowship 8 pm AA	<b>12</b> 5 pm Campus Ministry	<b>13</b> 9 am Women's Book Group	
<b>14</b> *See Schedule 9:00 am Adult Small Group Meeting  <i>Worship Theme: Faith Without Works</i>	<b>16</b> 11 am - 2 pm CM Open House 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms)	<b>17</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30 pm CM Sanctuary	<b>18</b> 10 am International Group 11 am - 2 pm CM Open House 8 pm AA	<b>19</b> 5 pm Campus Ministry	<b>20</b> 9 am Women's Book Group	
<b>21</b> *See Schedule 9:00 am Adult Small Group Meeting  <i>Worship Theme: Jesus' Mission Statement</i>	<b>23</b> 6 pm Operation Snowball (Fellowship Hall, Conference Room, and Classrooms)	<b>24</b> 12 pm Bulletin Deadline 6 pm Chime Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30 pm CM Sanctuary  <i>Communion Deadline</i>	<b>25</b> 2 pm - 4 pm CM Open House	<b>26</b> 5 pm Campus Ministry	<b>27</b> 9 am Women's Book Group	
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday 9:00 am Adult Small Group Meeting  <i>Worship Theme: Turning the Tables</i>	<b>30</b> 7:30 pm Adult Small Group at the Blind Pig 9 pm Campus Ministry Choir	<b>31</b>	<b>*Sunday Schedule</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 9:25 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am - 12:00 pm Worship and Community Time 6:00 pm CUCC Youth Group 7:00 pm SET Meeting	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>CUCC Office Hours</b>                      Monday Through Thursday                      9:00 am - 3:00 pm                 </div>		

## Readings From the Installation of Pastor Leah

Sunday February 21, 2010

### THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Given by Rev. Karen Bush, Campus Minister

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow” “Thank you” The first words of my heart’s message this afternoon are these: Praise God and thank you. Praise God who is faithful in all things—even through a church’s own dark night of the soul—ever faithful, leading us onward toward a new day- this new day- a dream of many dreams new day. Praise God. And—thank you—thank you, Leah- for saying “Here I am, God. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.”

I am so glad you are here, Leah. I sat in worship this morning and I could feel my heart sing for God’s faithfulness in bringing you to us and we to you. When you were popped the question way back in November, thank you, Leah, for saying yes. Now on to the task at hand which Leah has entrusted to me for which I am very honored. The charge to the congregation.

My first charge to you this afternoon, my friends, is “don’t be afraid of some change.” I often think of congregational life like that of a river or a brook where one can never step in the same place twice because the water is always moving and changing.

Congregations are like that --people leave or move away or die and new people arrive to the congregation never having known those who used to be there and yet all are a part of the congregation’s dynamic embrace. In this environment, change and the new possibilities it brings is constant. It just is. There is a hymn that I’m particularly fond of whose refrain words is simply *Don’t be afraid of some change — don’t be afraid of some change.* And so, my friends, my first charge to you this afternoon is “Don’t be afraid of some change.”

Ride it, like a wave in the ocean, and see where it carries you. If you’ve been holding back and watching from the sidelines of congregational life now is a good time to step forward, get involved, and make deeper connections and commitments. And if you’ve held the same positions in the church for a number of years, feel good about the ministry you’ve done and then move on to find new ways that you can contribute. This is how congregations and congregants mature and thrive. So don’t be afraid of some change because so many new possibilities and connections await Community UCC and you.

My second charge to you: Claim your purpose. Over the past two years this congregation worked very hard to move through and beyond difficult days towards a new dawning in our common life together. Now- in the sunrise of this fresh, brilliant new day together we can joyfully celebrate the fruits of our labor. Now, like a rainbow after a storm we sing God’s praises under the roof of our beautifully renovated new building (with no leaks!) even as we eagerly welcome our new pastor.

So now, with Pastor Robberts-Mosser at the helm, Community UCC begins a new era and has the opportunity to focus on new goals- refocused mission- a clarified reason for being. At this new beginning I urge you to wrestle with the question: What is Community United Church of Christ’s purpose? Who do you want to be? What inspires you? What is the nature of your calling as a congregation at this point in human history? Figure it out together. Name it. Claim it. Together become the change you want to see in the world.

Lastly, I charge you to be good stewards of your congregational common life. Do your best to offer one another the benefit of the doubt in every circumstance—including and especially your new pastor. Treasure the care, encouragement and affection that you offer to one another. Pay attention to it, nurture it, and share it with any who ask or need.

Never underestimate the impact you have *on* one another and *through* one another. It is here that you may most impact the progression of peace, of wholeness, of shalom in the world. There are no insignificant moments together. Your quality of care with one another, particularly in those countless seemingly ordinary moments, carries a weight of impact that cannot be over estimated. As Plato said in a different era: *Please, my friends, Be kind. For everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.*

Remember this truth as you sit in committee meetings, as you welcome guests through the front door, as you greet one another and speak about one another and disagree with one another and, even on those rare occasions, irritate one another. As good stewards be sure to continue to support and care for this church’s professional ministry. Respect Leah’s ministry. When you have praise to give or concerns to share speak with her directly; She wants to know you.

There are many wonderful people here at the Community UCC who can be your friends. Choose to let Leah in to be your pastor. This being said please make sure she takes all of her vacation time. With the exception of emergencies, be careful to respect her weekly Sabbath times. And, as much as possible, in every circumstance give her the benefit of the doubt.

And so, my friends, don’t be afraid of some change. Claim your purpose as a congregation and then go fiercely live it. Be good stewards of your common life together caring for one another in all ways. Embrace Leah as your pastor; do her and yourself the honor of speaking your praise and concerns directly to her in a straight forward way; respect her leadership and strive to give her and one another the benefit of the doubt in every circumstance.

This is my charge to you, Community United Church of Christ.

All of my blessings go with you on your journey.

## Readings From the Installation of Pastor Leah

Sunday February 21, 2010

### THE CHARGE TO PASTOR LEAH

Given by Michelle Franke, Moderator

Today I am before you representing this church in installing Leah as our Senior Pastor. What an amazing journey this congregation has been on during our search. Leah, you are a gift from God. Your gifts impressed the seven member search committee last summer, and those same gifts are what we hope to continue to receive today, tomorrow, and many years down the road. For anyone that knows me...I am a "shopper" and I can "find" anything – especially good deals. What I learned in my role on the search committee was that we could not go "shopping" for the perfect pastor; finding a perfect match is the work of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit led us to you -- and you to us.

Leah, your gifts are strong. Your gifts are what we need. .. Gifts that stood out during our interview with you is that

You believe in people;

You radiate positive energy;

You are mission focused;

You are a person of strong faith.

And one of the most important gifts you bring is your commitment to relationships – building them, healing them, maintaining them through good times and in difficult times.

So my charge to you (on behalf of this congregation) as we move forward in ministry together, in relationship with each other, is that: You remember you are a gift.

You allow us to get to know you – so that we can understand and remember that you, as are we, are only human.

That together in our relationship we will share joy and sorrow, frustration and excitement, certainty and confusion

That in our relationship, you will help us focus on Jesus and try to show us the love, mercy and forgiveness that God gives all of us.

That you will partner with us as a team - ask questions together, dream together, and envision the future together

And that you do everything out of love.

Here in this place, new light is streaming in. The light is amazing – you are amazing! Let us together, in community, build a remarkable ministry. Let us together remember that – Life is a journey not a destination. I look forward to our many travels together.

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### We Remember

Alter flowers have been donated by the Women's Fellowship in memory of those CUCC members that passed away in the last year. We remember the years of service that they gave to CUCC and they will remain in our hearts forever.

We Remember

Frances Kurtz

January 14, 2009

Helen Crane

January 21, 2009

Curtis Wilson

February 6, 2009

Betty Donoho

February 6, 2009

And

John Due

March 4, 2009

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### Quote of the Month

From Sojourn's Verse and Voice

"But pacifism is so impractical!" As if Christian ethics were utilitarian, as if there were a calculus for *shalom!* ... In any case, it is not as if the whole church has tried pacifism and found it wanting, the fact is that the *whole* church has not tried pacifism at all.

- **Kim Fabricius**, *from his book*, Propositions on Christian Theology: A Pilgrim Walks the Plank



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



805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

## SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

9:00 am Sunday School

9:25 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

Return Service Requested

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Label

The next Communigram will be mailed out on March 30th.

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor:

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser  
leah@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

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

**Children's Choir Director:**  
Jodi Prosser

### UCC Campus Ministry

**Campus Minister:**  
Rev. Karen Bush  
karen@community-ucc.org

