

# COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Nurturing Spiritual Growth & Working for Social Justice*

17 February 2008

Second Sunday in Lent

10:30a.m.

Welcome to our service of worship! In addition to regular bulletins, our ushers have children's bulletins, hearing aids for the sanctuary, and large type bulletins and hymnals. Preschoolers through 12<sup>th</sup> graders go to church school after the children's story. Nursery care is provided for babies and toddlers. Parents can locate their children after worship by checking the room assignment list on the bulletin board in the hall just outside the narthex.

\*Indicates those who are able may stand.

**Bold** indicates congregational response.

## We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

"Adagio in G Minor"

Albinoni

Greeting, Introductions & Signing the Caring Roll

Choral Introit

\*Call to Worship (Let us stand to worship God)

Leader: Come together, people of God, this morning is made for singing praise.

**People: Praise to the eternal Holy Spirit, God of all creation, Lover of all souls.**

Leader: We gather with expectation, to hear Your word of hope, worship the giver of life, clarify purpose and direction, and return refreshed to lives of faithful service.

**People: You promise to all who love You the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, Your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life.**

**All: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

\*Hymn

"Oh How Glorious, Full of Wonder"

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Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

**Hope of all the ages, in this age of confusing issues, complicated choices, and the ascendancy of powers that defy your will, we turn once again to call out to you for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Be with us this hour and through our lives as we center ourselves in your Being, trusting that You will continue to judge us, correct our path, renew our spirits, enflame our passions, startle us with Your presence in dark moments, and light the way to our common future which will not be denied. Amen.**

### We Listen for God's Word

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. God will not let your foot be moved; the Holy One who keeps you will not slumber. The Most High who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Anthem

“Kumbaya”

Trad. Spiritual arr. Sjolund

Children's Time

*4 years old through 12<sup>th</sup> graders leave as we sing this song of blessing:*

**Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you,  
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.**

Gospel Reading

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God

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without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Message

"Whosoever Believes"

Rev. Steve Camp

\*Hymn

"Christ Jesus, Please Be by Our Side"

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### We Heed God's Call

To Support and Care for All of God's People

*Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of Thanksgiving and Petition*

*You are invited to pray silently or to speak out loud your prayers.*

*End your spoken prayers with: "God in your wisdom..."*

*The congregation will respond: "...Hear our prayer.*

To Give Cheerfully and with Gratitude

Offertory

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Spiritual arr. Callahan

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**



*The Monday Lunch Group offers prayers each week for those persons and needs of which they are aware. Please write your requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or one of the prayer jars at the back of the sanctuary or in Pilgrim House.*

**Prayers** – Following are the names of those who need to be remembered in prayer: **Jo Lemons, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Lisa Marsh, Mamie Scott, Nancy Cross' cousins Carolyn and Jean, David Ledbetter's father, Bill, June Bolton, Scottie Bell, Rhonda Zingraff's husband Charlie, Joan Little, Kerma Hazel, Gretchen Aycock's mother, Mary, Linda Rudisill's husband Sid Holmes, Moni Sawhney, Sonny Spicer, Mike Callaham's mother, Jenny, Dot Littleton, and Tom DeVito, Steve Halsted, & Don Lane who are all recuperating from surgery.**

Today **Rev. Steve Camp**, our conference minister, will be preaching and **Rev. Robert Parrish** will be leading worship. Next week, Hunter Thompson will be preaching and leading worship.

**Arts in Worship** wants you to share your talents with the congregation. Please take time to fill out the "inquiry" which is asking you to name your talents.

The last formal meeting of the full "**Thinking 'Green' In the Bleak Midwinter Group**" meets after worship today in the Bradow room, and we shall be focusing on air quality at home, green cleaning, and green building. Ron Howell will be a special guest speaker on air quality. Let's continue to open our hearts and minds to possibilities as we inch forward towards decreasing the size of our carbon footprint at our homes. We've had 18 to 20 at each of these sessions. Come join as we hopefully continue to "grow in knowledge and wisdom."

**Lenten Prayer Series** – During Lent Robert Parrish will be teaching a series on prayer from an African American perspective. The content and discussions will be based on the book entitled **Prayer in the Black Tradition** by Rev. Harold Carter. The main aspects that will be examined are: (1). How slaves brought from West Africa used their own background to adapt to Christian customs in America. (2). How prayer shaped the civil rights movement in America. (3). How the emphasis of prayer in the tradition of Black persons can be applied to the lives of all. The course will be presented on each Tuesday during Lent. Join us **February 19**, 26, and March 4, in the Bradow room from 7–8:15 P.M.

**SIS women's group** potluck will meet Thursday, **February 21** at 7:00 pm in the Hoffmann room and the kitchen. Bring a 3-quart pot of fresh or frozen home made soup to share. Containers will be provided so we can all take home a variety of soups. If possible, we will also keep some (in church freezer) to have on hand to give ill or recuperating church members. If you wish, bring some fresh fruit or bread to share with the group. Bring a 3x5 inch-size recipe for your soup and these will be duplicated for a future meeting. Also, you are asked to share a book or family tradition about the holidays. More info? Call Kathy Clift at 829-7242.

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**The Lenten Film Series** this year will really be two series running alternate weeks on Friday nights (7-9 PM) from February 8 through March 14. One series (Feb. 15, Feb. 29, Mar. 14) will feature films about the life, teaching, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The other series (Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Mar. 7) will be films about grace and healing. Location: Fellowship Hall. Popcorn provided. On **Friday, Feb. 22 – Marvin's Room** (1996) with Diane Keaton, Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, Hume Cronyn, and Robert DeNiro. This little known film with a star-studded cast provides an awesome demonstration that healing comes in many forms. (98 minutes)

**Forum for February 24** will be led by Steve Jurovics – “The Environment and the Hebrew Bible”

### **Justice in a Changing Climate Lenten Series: Global Warming Science and Policy**

Curbing human-caused global warming, and adapting to the warming we have already made inevitable, are two of the major challenges of our time. Our faith calls us to support policies that protect all of God’s creation -- including people who, because of their lack of political power or wealth, are most vulnerable to the changes that climate change and climate change regulations will bring. Still, such a large and complex topic can feel overwhelming. This Lenten series is aimed at thoughtful, concerned people who want a workable understanding of global warming and its solutions, and want to feel more confident when talking casually with friends, neighbors, and colleagues who are skeptical or confused. In the series, we will look at the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports and some of the underlying science. We will discuss a book, called "The Discovery of Global Warming," that should help us increase our comfort in and with the debate. And we will look at some action groups that are taking steps to slow and decrease the impact of climate change.

The series will run as four 1.5 hour weekly sessions commencing **February 24**, after church at CUCC (~12:15) (Hoffmann room).

- **Session 1: What is climate change?**
- **Session 2: How do we know it is happening?**
- **Session 3: Why are some people still skeptical, and how should one talk with them?**
- **Session 4: Reasons for hope – how shall we help?**

There will also be recommended reading. The first of these one can begin to read now

- Summary for Policymakers for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2007 at [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr\\_spm.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr_spm.pdf)[http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr\\_spm.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr_spm.pdf)
- **The Discovery of Global Warming**, which can be purchased in paperback from Amazon for ~ \$ 11. It can also be read on line at <http://www.aip.org/history/climate/>

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**N'SUMBU PUATI** has been called back to the Congo and will leave in March. CUCC is invited to come to his farewell at next Sunday's service of the Good News Message church worship service at 1:30.

**THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday	2/17	12:00 pm	<b>Fellowship – Vaughan fellowship hall</b>
		12:00 pm	Thinking Green – Bradow room
		1:30 pm	Congolese Worship
		5:00 pm	Covenant Community – Bradow room
Monday	2/18		OFFICE CLOSED
		12:15 pm	Monday Lunch Group – Hoffmann room
		7:00 pm	Church Council – Pilgrim House
			<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>
Tuesday	2/19	7-8:15 pm	<b>Prayer in the Black Tradition – Bradow room</b>
Wednesday	2/20	9:30 am	Tai Chi – Vaughan fellowship hall
		6:30 pm	Bible Study – Pilgrim House
Thursday	2/21	7:00 pm	SIS – Hoffmann room & Kitchen
Friday	2/22	7:00 pm	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Film – <u>Marvin's Room</u> –</b> Vaughan fellowship hall
Saturday	2/23	9:00 am	Saturday Men's Group – Library
Sunday	2/24	9:00 am	Taizé
		9:15 am	Adult Forum – Vaughan fellowship hall
		9:15 am	Bible Study – Bradow room
		9:30 am	Arts in Worship – Hoffmann
		10:30 am	Worship & Church School
		12:00 pm	<b>Fellowship – Vaughan fellowship hall</b>
		12:00 pm	<b>Global Warming</b> – Hoffmann room
	1:30 pm		<b>Congolese Worship – Pastor Puati's farewell</b>
		5:00 pm	Covenant Community – Bradow room

**COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Ministers: All the People of God

Organist: Doug Barrick

Office Manager: Carol Clark

Pastor: Steve Halsted

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Christian Education: Anne Bailey Zschau

Office Hours: M-F 9am-1pm

**Contact people in the day-to-day life of Community United Church of Christ**

Ministry Chairs: Deacons, Robert Parrish; Property, Bayard Alcorn /Joan McAllister;

Social Justice, Gary Smith; Stewardship, Fawn Pattison; Youth Ministry, Šánti Matthews;

Moderator, Diana Koenning; Treasurer, Mary Pruneau; Asst. Treasurer, Carol Kepler