



# New Covenant Community

*Our purpose is to continue in our time what Jesus began in his - working for the healing of our world as an inclusive, compassionate, joyful community.*

**JULY 2012**

## Summer Worship is now at 10am

Just a reminder that we meet at 10am throughout the summer from Memorial Day weekend until after Labor Day. Sunday School for children will also meet at 10am.



### **SPEAKING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School classes are combined for the summer months due to low numbers.

Nikki Brauer is now serving as director of the Sunday School Program taking over for Suzie Hutton, who will assume Nikki's teaching responsibilities. We do **need more Sunday School teachers** at NCC so if anyone has ideas or wishes to volunteer please let Nikki or Suzie know.



## Now that NCC has taken over responsibilities for UCCF ...

... we are looking for volunteers to help with our campus ministry programming.

As you know, New Covenant Community accepted responsibility for Campus Ministry programming as part of our agreement when UCCF bequeathed us their share of the Campus Religious Center. Because the paid position with UCCF no longer exists, we are looking for NCC'ers who might have an interest in working with college students and the larger ISU community to get involved.

There are a number of benefits for us, both as individuals and as a congregation. In addition to volunteers from NCC having new energy and ideas for student programming, there is the joy of personal relationships that span generations between college students and adults in various stages of life.

Have an idea for a worthwhile activity? Want to make friends with young people at a wonderful and challenging crossroad? Speak to Susan or Bob SOON (school starts August 20!) about helping with this very worthwhile aspect of our congregational life and mission.



New Covenant Community  
210 W. Mulberry St.  
Normal, IL 61761  
309.454.7362  
[www.nccnormal.org](http://www.nccnormal.org)

## PARTNERS IN HEALING



NCC is a member congregation of Advocate BroMenn Medical Center's "Partner's in Healing" program, which is a project of intentional prayer for specific medical units on a rotating basis with other local congregations. Each congregation is asked to pray for patients receiving medical care in a specific unit, as well as for the staff who are treating them and/or for their families.

In July NCC is praying for the patients, families, and staff of the **Same Day Services (SDS)**. Same Day Services are where all surgery patients who are not ill enough to be hospitalized start. It is also where patients having other outpatient procedures other than gastrointestinal scopes begin. Those patients who will return home the same day will return to this unit before going home. There are 25 single-patient cubicles in the SDS. Approximately 31 patients are seen in SDS each day.

## JULY CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship at 10am**  
Sunday School meets during worship

**July 3** 6:30 Steering Committee

**July 20** August newsletter deadline

To keep up to date with NCC happenings make sure to check out the NCC calendar online at [www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm](http://www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm)



## SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION— ILLINOIS PEOPLE'S ACTION (IPA) UPDATE

**Payday Organizing:** In 2011, IPA initiated the "Cap 36" campaign to cap interest rates of payday and car title loans at 36%. To date, three city councils (Bloomington, Normal, Decatur) have passed resolutions urging our State legislature to revisit this issue and two cities (Springfield, Champaign) are poised to introduce home rule ordinances to cap interest rates at 36%. These local actions have spread to the national level with leaders from over 26 states expressing interest in joining IPA to collaborate on federal predatory loan cap legislation. On May 21, 2012, IPA leaders met with Senator Dick Durbin who agreed to sponsor such legislation in Congress. This fall, IPA plans to convene a national roundtable to work on this campaign.

**Immigrant Rights Organizing:** IPA is working on three fronts. One is educating immigrant and Latino families regarding their rights as workers and people living in the U.S. The second is education to raise awareness in our community of the challenges facing immigrants. The third is organizing to insure that immigrants are not unfairly detained or separated from their families by overzealous interpretation of federal immigration ICE guidelines.

**Foreclosures:** This spring, as a result of IPA work with local courts, the McLean County court system started a foreclosure mediation program. The program will work with lenders and those facing foreclosure to work on an equitable solution to give lenders a fair return and to keep people in their homes. Currently, there are eight volunteer mediators involved in the program.

**Big Banks, Corporate and Government Accountability:** The Illinois Department of Revenue reported in 2012 that 80% of Illinois' publicly traded companies pay NO taxes. IPA and Make Wall Street Pay worked to get a bill introduced in the Illinois State Senate to require publicly traded companies to disclose how much taxes they pay. The bill faced strong opposition from corporations and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. The fight continues on this issue.



## July Birthdays

9 Kathy Berberich  
 14 Krissie Johnson / Michelle Vought  
 15 Jeremiah Alomoto  
 17 Tom Sullivan  
 18 Tony Rio  
 19 Bob Warfield  
 21 Joe Grabill  
 24 Kylie Maurer

*If we don't have your birthday, please let Susan Ryder know so that we can include you next year!*



## SUMMER GARDEN NEEDS

A big thank you to all of you that responded to requests for needed items for our NCC gardens. These keep us from having to buy new items and help to stretch our budget.

We still need perennials (including cat mint), shrubs, groundcover, paving material (to make stepping-stones), serviceable garden hoses, a watering can, and sprinklers.

The Garden Group acknowledges all donations with an e-mail or letter of appreciation. If you can supply any the above items, please contact Joe Boudreaux at 827-0797 or by email. Thank you!

## POETRY CORNER ...

Harbinger

By Phyllis White

It's early July  
 not quite mid-summer.  
 Lots of long, leisurely days to look forward to.  
 No need to hurry.  
 There's plenty of time.

The large maple tree shelters and shades the deck  
 its limbs heavy with layers of dark green leaves  
 that whisper softly when a breeze goes by  
 and last night, whistled and moaned  
 in the strong wind of a summer storm,  
 clinging tightly to their branches all the while.

This morning  
 in the peaceful sunshine of another summer's day  
 one small leaf lay on the deck  
 dark green, like those above  
 except  
 for a ribbon of bright red running down one side.

Around the corner  
 autumn waits ~

## Care to tickle the ivories?

Itching to play the baby grand piano some Sunday morning? Want to lead our singing with another instrument (guitar, accordion, um ... impromptu jazz quartet?) We are looking for people to volunteer to play the instrument of your choice during the service so we can give our regular pianist, Russ Rutter, a well deserved Sunday off once a month. Please contact Susan Ryder if you are interested/willing to lend a hand. Or two!



### NEWSLETTER CALL FOR NEWS

*Please share reports and announcements, what you are reading and poetry you've written, or let us know of a news story we could mention.*

*Please email articles to Susan Ryder at [normalsue@aol.com](mailto:normalsue@aol.com) by July 20 for the August newsletter.*

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