



# NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

MAY 2013 NEWSLETTER

## NCC COMMUNITY MEETING—MAY 19

We will have a Community Meeting on Sunday, May 19 after the service. The stated purpose of this meeting will be to share an update from the Steering Committee regarding a “visioning” process we began at our January retreat, using information garnered from the survey you responded to late last year, as well as input from adult education classes, and our own brainstorming. While there will be no “official business” conducted at this meeting, we do hope you will make every effort to attend to hear about some of the things we have implemented already, and are still working on for the future of our community life together.

## STEERING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

### April 16 meeting

Approved Minutes of previous meetings can be found at <http://nccnormal.org/scminutes/>

The Steering Committee continues to review recommendations received by way of NCC survey responses, individuals, classes, groups, and presentations from the January, 2013 retreat. Because we will present an update of our process/progress at the May 19 Community Meeting, planning the agenda for that Community Meeting took up some of the agenda at our April 16 meeting.

Some of the items discussed as part of our visioning efforts included firming up plans for a “resurrection” of our Tables of Six dinners, which will occur during June/July (sign-ups will resume in May), and we heard positive feedback about Name Tag Sunday on April 7. We had an update about a forthcoming pictorial directory project, and began to think about enhanced technology in terms of outreach to the larger community and new members.

We appointed Karen Rousey to chair a newly forming “Partners in Mission” group, which will suggest recipients for the money we budget for local mission each year, plus additional giving for Christmas and other special offerings, and talked about the need to plan early for our Christmas Eve pre-service gathering (see article on page 2). We also moved forward with discussion of an assistant Treasurer to help with the weekly deposits and accounting, and received updates about the Campus Religious Center from our CRC Board Members. David Hirst shared updates about NCC’s participation in the “Good to Go” WGLT Challenge, as well as the NCC Mosaic project, which included participation in and NCC contributions to the “One Million Bones” project in April.

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

## Worship Moves to 10am Sunday, May 26

Just a reminder that the time of our NCC service will move to 10am for the summer on Sunday, May 26. We will meet at 10am until after Labor Day. Sunday School for children will also meet at 10am.



## THE WGLT GO TO GOOD COMMUTER CHALLENGE

It's not too late to sign up! The "Good to Go Commuter Challenge" is a weeklong event designed to encourage health living and promote the use of alternative transportation instead of driving alone. The Challenge is a friendly competition for the highest group member participation rate and between individuals, teams, groups and organizations to see who can tally the most miles. During the week, participants track and report their commutes online. Public transit, walking, bicycling, car sharing, carpooling, vanpooling, and telecommuting all count as miles saved.

The annual challenge is **May 11-17, 2013**. It's open to anyone who lives, works, goes to school, or regularly commutes in, to or from McLean County. Get started now to save money and earn bragging rights! Everyone who registers gets a free Good To Go water bottle, a certificate for a free Carl's ice cream cone and a card good for one free bus ride. Contact David Hirst for more information about becoming part of the NCC "Good to Go" team! And check out the web site <http://wgl.org/goodtogo/challenge/> for more info.

Bike to work

Car Pool



Walk

Tele-commute

Take the bus

### NCC MOSAIC PROJECT — Next up!

**May 5- Fish and Funky** - After church workshop. We will glaze the swirls and spirals from the April workshop and create fish and unique and creative shaped tiles.

### MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group will meet the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of May in the afternoon — anyone interested can call Mary Beth Taylor at 530-6175 or Margaret Rutter at 454-2392 to learn when and where they will meet.



### Christmas in May!

The Steering Committee is looking at the fellowship time that occurs before the Christmas Eve Service. It was noted that setup/cleanup on that evening was less cumbersome with the small to heavy bites format of this past year. Input is welcome for the planning of the next "Noel Nosh" or "nochebuena nosh." Folks willing to help organize the nosh nitty-gritty details are welcome to contact Bruce Chandler at [brc123@frontier.com](mailto:brc123@frontier.com).

### MAY CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship at 10:30am**

Sunday School meets during worship

**May 5** ~ Mosaic project after the service

**May 8** ~ Social Justice Group @7pm

**May 19** ~ Community Meeting after the service

**May 20** ~ June/July newsletter deadline

**May 21 at 6:30pm** ~ Steering Committee Meeting

**May 26** ~ Worship moves to 10am

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)

# ADULT EDUCATION GROUP NEWS

The Adult Education Group met at Donella Hess-Grabill's home on Wed, April 24 at 6:30. Those present were Susan Ryder, Charline Watts, Marla Finch and Donella Hess-Grabill. We welcomed our newest member Nikki Brauer, who replaces Karen Rousey.

We discussed plans for a Summer Class and began working on plans for the Adult Education Academy, which will start in the Fall. We are pleased to offer a special summer class opportunity this summer for 6 weeks, June 9 – July 21, (skipping July 7). Please note the description below.

For the Fall, we will offer 3 options which will rotate during the academic year so that everyone has a chance to take each of them during the fall, winter, and spring. We will announce those options in the August newsletter. We also discussed showing occasional films/documentaries throughout the year as “stand alone” events. Susan is hoping to receive a “viewing party” copy of “American Winter” to show this summer. We will keep you posted.

Our next meeting to finalize Fall Adult Education classes is scheduled for **6:30pm on June 26** at Donella Hess-Grabill's house.

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We are pleased to offer a summer class led by Donella Hess-Grabill—sign-ups will begin later in May.

## THE POWER OF YOUR PRESENCE

**June 9 – July 21 (skipping July 7) at 8:30am**

Regardless of our feelings, inside every one of us lies the ability to create the person we truly desire to be at our core. This means that although the context and specific events will undoubtedly differ from the scenarios we envision, we can achieve much of the inner experience we want. In the meantime, however, we all too often get stuck in boring ruts or in unfamiliar territory, having lost our vision, feeling overwhelmed with trivial tasks, drained of energy, and out of focus without the tools to discern who we are and what we really want.

In this class, Donella Hess-Grabill, Professional Life Coach, offers tools that can help us restore focus, empower ourselves and offer a hand to others who want to follow a path on which to stroll, walk, or run at our own pace as we seek to surmount the challenges inherent in living. At the conclusion of the class, opportunity will be given to members to form an ongoing coaching group that uses the skills learned in the six classes listed below.

- I. STANDING IN YOUR OWN TRUTH
- II. HEARING BEYOND WORDS
- III. FRAMING AND REFRAMING STORIES
- IV. ASKING POWERFUL QUESTIONS
- V. PREEMPTIVE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT
- VI. BUILDING TRUST, RESPECT, HONOR, AND CONNECTION

## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS

### Notes from the April 10, 2013 Meeting

**Toxic Charity Book Group:** All the groups that have studied this book got together March 17 to discuss what action they might take. We are still waiting for the Steering Committee to take action on our proposal to form a mission group to research and decide where our mission money could go, and also to research community development and how we could possibly get involved. Bob Ryder and Brian and Marla Finch are currently leading another small book group using the book.

**IPA:**

**Fracking:** We showed the movie "Gasland" Wednesday, April 3.

**Immigration Reform.** Julie has been in contact with IPA about having a speaker at NCC on May 19 either for a 9:00 class or to give the reflection at 10:30, or both. On May 1, there will be a rally in Peoria and a prayer vigil in Bloomington-Normal.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m., at the home of Julie Sullivan. Anyone interested is welcome.

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### Immigration 101 Workshop

**When: May 19, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.(before service)**

**Where: New Covenant Community—Board Room**

The workshop will give our community a comprehensive look at the issue of unauthorized migration. The workshop will cover some reasons for unauthorized migration, our immigration system as it is today, immigrant testimonies, myths about illegal immigrants and action steps one can take to engage on this topic. The presentation will be followed by Q&A and discussion.

### Interfaith Celebration of the Immigrant

**May 1st at 5:30pm in front of the Bloomington Center of Performing Arts**

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me" Matthew 25:35*

The call for humane and just treatment immigrant is a key biblical theme. Consequently, faith communities all around the country are calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform! On May 1st at 5:30pm, Illinois People's action invites you to an Interfaith Celebration of the Immigrant. The service will take place in front of the Bloomington Center of Performing Arts located at 600 East Street. Following the service, we will have a clergy-lead march for immigration reform around downtown Bloomington.

On May 1st, let's put our faith into action and show support for our immigrant brothers and sisters!



Unitarian- Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal (UUBN)  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 Illinois Wesleyan University  
 are co-sponsoring a Poverty Simulation Workshop

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*noun*

1. the state of not having enough money to take care of basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing
2. a deficiency or lack of something

## STEP INTO POVERTY

**Saturday, May 11, 2013 \* 9 am – noon \***

**Illinois Wesleyan Memorial Center**

Want to better understand what it means to live in poverty?

Looking for ways to broaden compassion for those in need?

Brief description of the Poverty Simulation:

Understanding the day-to-day reality of poverty is important for everyone involved in fighting poverty - from policy makers to service providers, as well as community members interested in advocating for social justice. The Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) is a unique tool that helps people begin to understand what life is like with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress.

During the simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families, including single parents, people with disabilities, and senior citizens on Social Security. The task of each family is to provide for food, shelter and other basic necessities during four, 15-minute "weeks". Families interact with community resources provided in the simulation.

Participants will then break for refreshments with large and small group conversation that will be facilitated by the Extension staff and IWU staff and faculty.

**Childcare is available. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.**

Please Contact Brenda Wernick [b.r.wernick@gmail.com](mailto:b.r.wernick@gmail.com), or 608-334-5138, or Julie Prandi, [jprandi@iwu.edu](mailto:jprandi@iwu.edu) or 309-828-3230, to register and for more information.

