



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

Volume 55, Issue 07 - December 1, 2018

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

## e-Communigram



This month's newsletter features:

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- 2019 Pledgers-pg. 5 ● Volunteer Opportunities-pg. 7 ● Save-the-Date-pg. 9 ●

### Letter from Leah

*"While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." - Luke 2: 6*

This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night, Holy Night." Singing this carol, with candles raised, is one of the best-loved worship moments of many Christians. Something mystical occurs as we light our lights and sing the hope of "all is calm, all is bright" – peace and light enter our violent and shadowed world. Our Advent worship series will celebrate the carol's message over the entire season, highlighting its call for our lives, a call that can guide us all year long.

#### December 2 – “...Sleep in Heavenly Peace” -- PEACE

All children are precious, created good and beautiful. Too many of the world's children are suffering and do not know the peaceful sleep imagined in this beloved “Silent Night” hymn. The "heavenly peace" we sing about in the carol ‘Silent Night’ is a birthright. Ensuring that peace will be our focus this week. We are called to work for the alleviation of hunger, poverty and abuse that too often destroys children even before they can speak for themselves. This is the work of peacemaking.

#### December 9 – “Glories Stream from Heaven Afar...” – JOY

The shepherds got quite a wake-up call that night when the sky lit up like a Christmas tree, so to speak. Awe at the transformative glory of what God can do in our lives is the focus this week. Glories are streaming every day if we only have eyes to see. How would our lives be renewed if we saw the world and our lives through the lens of wonder?

#### December 16 – “With the Dawn of Redeeming Love....” – LOVE

The presence of God in human form is the "dawn" of redeeming grace, says the carol's third verse. God so desired to be up close and personal that God came to live, breathe, feel, teach, touch, and love us in the flesh. Made in the image of God, we are called to nurture relationships that birth, multiply, and radiate grace in the world. What would the world be like if “love's pure light” was at the center? We'll ask this question on Advent 3

#### December 23 – “Alleluia” to the King....” – HOPE

The last verse of the hymn invites us to lift our voices in alleluias to the one who is King. This descriptor was radical for the people of Jesus' time as it resisted the powers of empire that threatened "the least of these" that Jesus came to serve. We are reminded by this seemingly benign and sweet song that whenever there is injustice in our world, we are to look to the one whose power is love, kindness, and unending service to others. As we ponder these things on Advent 4, we will ask ourselves how might the sovereignty of Christ increase our hope for the future?

Blessings,



## What's Happening at CUCC in December?

<p><b>Saturday, December 1</b> -Fellowship Hall rental from 1:00-10:00pm</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 2</b> -Classic Worship at 10:15am -AA meeting 7:30-9:00pm (parlor)</p> <p><b>Monday, December 3</b> -Jubilee Cafe from 5:00-6:30pm -Sunday School Teachers meeting at 6:30pm -Pub Theology at 7:15pm</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 5</b> -Christmas Caroling at CUCC from 4:30-6:00pm -Campus Ministry meeting at 6:30pm</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 6</b> -Men's Breakfast at Urbana Garden Family Restaurant 7:00am -International Friendship Group at 10:00am -Campus Ministry Open house from 1-4:00pm -AA meeting 8:00-10:00pm (FH)</p> <p><b>Friday, December 7</b> -CUCC Offices closed -Fellowship Hall rental from 6:00-11:00pm</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 9</b> -Classic worship at 10:15am -Newcomers Session #4 at 6:00pm -AA meeting 7:30-9:00pm (parlor)</p> <p><b>Monday, December 10</b> -Jubilee Cafe from 5:00-6:30pm -Pub Theology at 7:15pm</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 12</b> -Just for Fun Breakfast at 8:30am -Caroling at Clark Lindsey Village 3pm</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 13</b> -International Friendship Group at 10:00am -Campus Ministry Open House from 1-4:00pm -AA meeting 8:00-10:00pm (FH)</p> <p><b>Friday, December 14</b> -CUCC Offices closed</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 16</b> -Classic worship at 10:15am -Farewell to Music Director, Cara Chowning, immediately following worship</p>	<p>-CLB Budget Meeting -Longest Night worship service at 7:00pm -AA meeting 7:30-9:00pm (parlor)</p> <p><b>Monday, December 17</b> -Jubilee Cafe from 5:00pm-6:30pm -Pub Theology at 7:15pm</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 18</b> -Retiree's Lunch at 11:30am -CLB Meeting at 6:30pm</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 20</b> -AA meeting 8:00-10:00pm (FH)</p> <p><b>Friday, December 21</b> -CUCC Offices closed</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 23</b> -Classic worship at 10:15am -AA meeting 7:30-9:00pm (parlor)</p> <p><b>Monday, December 24</b> -CUCC Offices closed -Jubilee Cafe 5:00-5:45pm -Christmas Eve worship service at 7:00pm followed by Wassail reception in Fellowship Hall</p> <p><b>Tuesday, December 25 -Merry Christmas!</b> -CUCC Offices closed</p> <p><b>Wednesday, December 26</b> -CUCC Offices closed</p> <p><b>Thursday, December 27</b> -CUCC Offices closed -AA meeting 8:00-10:00pm (FH)</p> <p><b>Friday, December 28</b> -CUCC Offices closed</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 30</b> -Classic worship at 10:15am -AA meeting 7:30-9:00pm (parlor)</p> <p><b>Monday, December 31-New Year's Eve</b> -CUCC Office open until Noon -Jubilee Cafe 5:00-5:45pm</p> <p><b>Tuesday, January 1 -Happy New Year!</b> -CUCC Offices closed</p>
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Please note-our task force working on Staffing, Building & Capital Campaign need extensions thus postponing the reporting to January.

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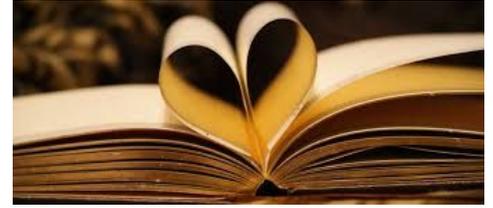
## Moderator's Musings

Hi CUCC,

It's that time of year again! Time for us to celebrate the holidays with loved ones.

Some of that celebrating may involve gift giving. I'd like for you to think of a different kind of gift you can give. We all have gifts, talents, and skills bestowed to us by our Creator. I'd like to challenge you to think of a couple things: a way to use one of your skills and someone you wouldn't give a gift to. Let this be the year (if you haven't before) you share with someone outside of your circle. That's what it means to me to share God's love.

*Best, Kristy Brownfield*



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## Caroling Opportunities! - Wednesday, December 5 & Wednesday, December 12



Whether you have a great singing voice or not, we welcome everyone to join us outside on the east steps of the church on **Wednesday, December 5** anytime from 4:30pm – 6:00pm We will be singing Christmas Carols and handing out cups of homemade hot chocolate to UI students and staff as the leave school/work for the day. This is a really fun way to spread holiday cheer from CUCC to our UI friends and neighbors. We'll also be spreading good cheer and visiting the residents of Clark Lindsey Village on **Wednesday, December 12** at 3pm. We hope you will join in!

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## Longest Night Worship Service - Sunday, December 16

The name for this worship service, to be held Sunday, December 16 at 7pm, comes from the season in December when we experience the shortest day and the longest night of the year. But the name also applies to the feeling that a number of us have about this season. It is the "long dark night of the soul," "the winter of our discontent," in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, Christmas Eve, or New Year's Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year.



In this service, we will have some singing appropriate to the season, recognizing that this is not necessarily a season of joy. We will invite you to meditate on the pain and anguish you may bring, and to offer your pain to the Christ child. And we trust that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. This is a powerful worship experience for those who need it. If you know of someone who does, in fact, need it, please invite them. All are welcome. Childcare and parking are available.

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## Sunday School News

In December our CUCC children will be learning the stories of the Christmas season during Sunday School beginning with "The Annunciation" on December 2nd, "Mary visits Elizabeth" on December 9th, and "Jesus is Born" on December 16th. Our fourth Sunday of Worship (December 23rd) will be a special one with crafts and activities downstairs during our usual Sunday School time. On this date, children will be able to participate

in an impromptu Nativity play complete with costumes! Also planned - several fun holiday themed crafts that they can make and take home. In addition, those children in Kindergarten or above who have not had a chance to participate in Acolyte training can do that as well. It will be a spirited and wonderful time to be sure! Our thanks to our teachers for the month of December: Brin Schuler, Michael Trout, Dennis Jamison, Jesus Yepez, Lance Larkin, and Lucy Cross and to our Shepherds Jane Xue, George Cook, and Sophie Keely.



**As part of our Rites of Passage program, we present age-appropriate Bibles to children in preschool, third grade, and sixth grade each year.** We are planning to do that in the worship service on December 9th. While we keep records and *think* we have a complete list of who should be receiving a Bible this year, we do ask that you check in with Pastor Connie, Sophie Keely, or Lucy Cross if you have a child in one of those age groups. We don't want to leave anyone out! If we inadvertently missed your child last year, please let us know that, too, so we can include them in this year's presentations. You can also email the church office

([info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)) with the information, too.

**Sunday School teachers and shepherds are urged to attend a meeting Monday, December 3rd, at 6:30pm** to go over plans for the remainder of 2018 and make plans for the beginning of 2019. It's okay to brown bag your supper (or stop in to Jubilee Cafe ahead of time). We expect the meeting to last around an hour-and-a-half. Talk with Sophie Keely or Lucy Cross if you have questions.

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## From our Director of Youth Ministries

Dear Community,

The youth have been very active in November with Confirmation, Sunday School and youth group. In Confirmation, the youth have been learning more about what it means to be a progressive Christian. We are learning more about what it means reflect God's love in everything that they say and do.

The youth also took a trip to Elevate Trampoline Park. We had 13 total participants at this event. The youth most certainly out-jumped me and did great on the obstacle course but it was so much fun!

On a personal note, I will not be in worship on Sunday, December 2nd since my mother is having a pretty significant surgery and I will be spending time with my family on that day. I will also be taking a vacation day on Sunday, December 23rd to see my brother that I haven't seen for almost a year.

The following dates are confirmed our youth for the month of December:

**December 2:** Youth are encouraged to participate in worship with their families - no Sunday School (6-12 grade)

**December 9:** Youth Sunday School in Tower Room (following Children's Moment)

**December 16:** Confirmation Class during worship service

**December 23:** Youth are encouraged to participate in worship with their families - no Sunday School

**December 30:** Confirmation Class during worship service

I will be reaching out to parents for a holiday gathering date for our youth group. More details to come! I'm thankful as always to be part of the ministry at CUCC.



*Blessings, Jessica Smiley*

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## Campus Ministry Volunteer Sign-Ups

The 2019 sign-up sheets are up on the whiteboard in the vestibule outside the parlor for:

- hosting Campus Ministry Sunday lunches
- providing Thursday Open House snacks



We appreciate you taking a look at the dates and signing up as you are available. Thanks!

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## Please be sure to identify early contributions toward your 2019 pledge

From the Financial Secretary's standpoint, the 2019 pledge campaign has gotten off to a good start. A number of people have indicated that they plan to start contributions for the 2019 budget soon, if not immediately. A number of people do that each year, generally to get the tax deduction a year earlier. But when recording a donation, Your Faithful Financial Secretary needs to know which bucket it should be credited to. Lacking any instructions to the contrary, I'll assume that a contribution made in 2018 is meant for 2018.

So, please, if you make a contribution toward your 2019 pledge, please indicate that on your check.

*Thanks, David Willcox, Financial Secretary*



## Thank you 2019 Pledgers!

Alison Anders, Connie Bandy, Johnell Bentz & Laura Stevens, Joel Brotherton, Kristy & Shane Brownfield, Rev. Karen & Scott Bush, Dawn Carson, Dennis Cockrum, Jennifer Cromley, Lucy Cross & Susan Potter, Brian Duffield, Keri Evans, Ruth Fisher, David & Chelsey Gerstnecker, Ruth & Ken Gilbert, Bill & Patty Gropp, Clare Gropp, Becky Hanson, Caryl & Kent Henkel, Nancy Hill & Marilou Hinrichs, Tom Howley & George Cook, Doug Irwin, Todd & Sarah Isaacs, Dennis & Rocio Jamison, Ilsa Kantola, Sophie Keeley, Patrick Keenan, Stephen Holderup & Jan Hiland, Mark Kuechler, Lance Larkin, Kathy & Larry Lee, Brittany & Kyle Mahannah, John Mannen, Pat Mannen, Linda Morgan, John Murphy & Cara Finnegan, Randy Musser & David Roberts, Curt Nesler, John & Sue Osborne, Ramona Oswald, Jan Petee, Angie Powers & Pat Ege, Grant & Jennifer Robbennolt, David & Leah Robberts-Mosser, Richard & Susan Schnuer, Martha Seif, Elizabeth Shack, Becky Sheridan & Jan Himes, Chase, Skye, Doug & Nancy Smith, Josh & Leslie Smith, Cheryl Snyder, Anita Stein & Harvey Welch, Burt & Iris Swanson, Michael Trout & Mary Koloroutis, Peg & Roger Wade, Laura Wadleigh, Sean Walker, Tom & Jeanne Ward, Tom Watembach & Ellen Kordik, David & Ellen Willcox, Jesus Yopez

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**Please note: it is never too late to make a pledge!** You can pledge by emailing the CUCC financial secretary. You can check your pledge status online by logging in to your Breeze account. Also, please forgive us if you pledged and your name is not on this list. Contact David Wilcox at [financial-secretary@community-ucc.org](mailto:financial-secretary@community-ucc.org).

*Very gratefully, Patty Gropp and Joel Brotherton, Stewardship Co-chairs*



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## CUCC 2018 Membership Database Renewal - Please complete before 2019

We are migrating our data to the Breeze Church Management Software platform. We believe this platform will allow us to maintain communications more efficiently than ever before and help future-proof our membership database. Essentially, this software will help us to stay in contact with each other and maintain our covenant of community. Initially, we need accurate information entered in the online registration form. Once the foundation of the database is made, members will be able to update their information freely. This includes preferred contact methods, changes in the family, and pictures for our directory. Check out Breeze by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact Josh Smith about the new software by emailing him at [clerk@community-ucc.org](mailto:clerk@community-ucc.org).

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## Summit Staffing Task Force Update

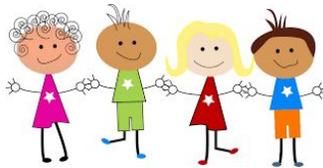


For ALL CUCC friends, attendees, and members, please tell us what you think about Sunday School. The Summit Staffing Task Force has composed a survey to help shape the future of our Sunday School program. This survey is intended for ALL attendees of CUCC, whether you have children or not. Please fill out our "CUCC Sunday School Survey" as soon as you can either by filling out the paper copy and putting it in the offering plate or office or by filling out the online version by clicking [here](#).

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## Calling All Kids! We want to hear from YOU!

We are working to make sure Sunday School meets the needs of all of our families. Who is more qualified to give feedback on the CUCC community are asked to fill out soon as possible either by filling out the plate or office or filling out the online



Sunday School than our kids?? Children in the "CUCC Child Sunday School Survey" as paper copy and putting it in the offering version [here](#).

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## Prayer Shawls

Available now is a "yarn library" for anyone interested in checking out skeins to knit or crochet and returning a finished shawl. It's a wonderful lap activity for the cold-weather. There's no due date or set timeframe. The finished work can be as simple or elaborate as you desire. Beginning knitting is as comforting around one's shoulders as a project from a connoisseur! Also, several how-to and pattern books are available. Shawls will continue to be made with donated materials, upcycled and repurposed fabrics, as well. Feel free to contact Elena Kasper, prayer shawl coordinator, at [eakasper@gmail.com](mailto:eakasper@gmail.com) if you are interested.



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## Crop Walk 2018 Totals

CUCC did very well this year in collecting donations for Crop Walk 2018 which was held on Sunday, October 14. Walkers Jean Ward, Dennis Jamison, Allison Anders and sons, Janis Himes, David Wilcox, Pat Ege and the Lee family walked the six mile route which symbolizes how many miles some people in third world countries walk for food, water and necessities. 25% of all monies collected locally are shared with Eastern Illinois Food Bank, St. Jude's

Worker House and Times Center. I wish to thank the 35 CUCC households who helped raise \$2,039.00. Thanks also to Lisa and Tee Fowler for helping as crossing guards.

*Becky Sheridan, Crop Walk Coordinator*



Photos courtesy of Becky Sheridan and <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/champaignil>

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## Fireside Dinners a Big Success!

The 2018 Fireside dinners were held Sunday, November 4 and enjoyed by 54 (record number!) adults in 8 different homes. We also hosted 3 children in the childcare offered at the church. We want to thank everyone who participated, including our 2 childcare workers, and a special thanks to our hosts for the evening: Ruth & Ken Gilbert; Doug Irwin and Kenny; Kathy & Larry Lee; Randy Musser & David Robertson; Susan & Richard Schnuer; Peg & Roger Wade; Jeanne & Tom Ward and Ellen & David Willcox. We appreciate the host's willingness to open their homes to us for the evening and for all the participants who help keep this small informal dinner group tradition at CUCC alive.

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## Volunteer Opportunities are Endless at CUCC!

Liturgists, Ushering, Jubilee Cafe, Campus Ministry and much will surely keep you involved at CUCC. Check out the following links and sign-up for whatever strikes your fancy---we'd love to have you!

Ushers: email [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)

Coffee Hosts: email [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)

Liturgists: [Click here!](#)

Greeters: [Click here!](#)

Campus Ministry Student Lunch Sign-Up: [Click here!](#)

Jubilee Cafe: [Click here!](#)



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## Do you know someone in need? Read on for resources!

C-U at Home engages and mobilizes our community to house and support the most vulnerable homeless on their journey of healing and restoration. There are many great resources on the C-U at Home website which can be found by clicking [here](#). The Phoenix Drop-In Center, Transitional Housing, Transportation Ministry, Street Outreach and Education Advocacy are just a few. See fliers below for current C-U at Home services and fundraising events. Also United way of Champaign County has compiled at Winter 2018-2019 Services guide. Guide is available at CUCC or you can download your own copy by clicking [here](#).



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## 1,800 Prepackaged Snacks Delivered

In early November CUCC delivered a plethora of prepackaged snacks to the Men's Shelter. A big thanks to Jan Petee and David Roberts-Mosser who delivered the 1,800 individually wrapped snacks, in 6 different varieties, to CU at Home.



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## Homeless Youth Care Kits



This season CUCC is proud to partner with The Up Center of Champaign County by being a drop-off site for their Homeless Youth Care Kits. Did you know that 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+?

Currently there are no shelter options for unaccompanied minors. Please donate the requested materials and The Up Center will work with their partners to deliver a backpack of materials to youth in need.

Now through Monday, December 17 you will find 12 collection bins and supply lists located inside CUCC's 6th St. entryway. Bring donated items and place them in the bins, checking off what you've donated on the list so that each kit is complete.

Together we can make a difference! This is a community-wide drive with multiple drop-off locations. Please invite your family & friends to participate.

**Supply list includes:** backpacks, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, snacks (must have seals intact), feminine hygiene products, duct tape, boxes of 1 gal. Ziploc bags, socks, underwear, hats, gloves, scarves, sturdy rain gear, hand warmers (in sets of 10), tarps, winter grade sleeping bags, First Aid kits.

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## CUCC Ongoing Monthly Events

Sunday-Classic Worship at 10:15am

Monday-Jubilee Cafe 5-6:30pm

Monday-Pub Theology 7:15pm in Parlor

3rd Tuesday (December 18) - CUCC Retiree's Lunch 11:30am (location TBA)

4th Tuesday - CUCC Canteen Run prep (**No prep in December**)

2nd Wednesday (December 12) - Just for Fun Breakfast at Perkins on University Ave. at 8:30am

1st Thursday (December 6) - Men's Breakfast at Urbana Gardens Family Restaurant at 7:00am



On Monday, November 19, Rev. Vinny Santanelli performed live music for Jubilee Cafe guests and volunteers.

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## Did you miss worship?

Don't fret if you missed worship last week, or even a month ago! Sermons are recorded live each Sunday and can always be found [here](#) via our YouTube channel. You can enjoy numerous sermons in the comfort of your own home. Just give us a couple of days to get the previous Sunday uploaded.

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## Mark your calendars for these upcoming CUCC events!

**Sunday, December 16** - Longest Night worship service at 7pm

**Tuesday, December 18** - CLB Meeting at 6:30pm

**Monday, December 24** - Christmas Eve worship service followed by the annual Wassail reception at 7pm

**January 6** - Epiphany Sunday

**January 13** - Baptism of Christ - Remembrance of Baptism

**January 27** - Annual Meeting & Luncheon

**February 1 & 2** - Annual Leadership Retreat

**Sunday, February 17** - Chad O'Neil's Ecclesial Council

**SAVE THE DATE**

Note: we will have a task force report out sometime in January 2019. Stay tuned!

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## Milwaukee to Host General Synod in 2019

Mark your calendars! It will be the first time a General Synod will be held in Wisconsin. Aside from being known for its breweries, bratwurst and its cheese, Wisconsin is home to Harley Davidson motorcycles, the Green Bay Packers and the world's largest music festival.



Wisconsin Conference Minister the Rev. Franz Rigert said, "Wisconsin, and Milwaukee in particular, are so much more than that. You'll find a thriving arts scene, a revitalized historic district and big city attractions." [Click here for full article.](#)

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## Pizza, Wine, and a Multi-Birthday Celebration!

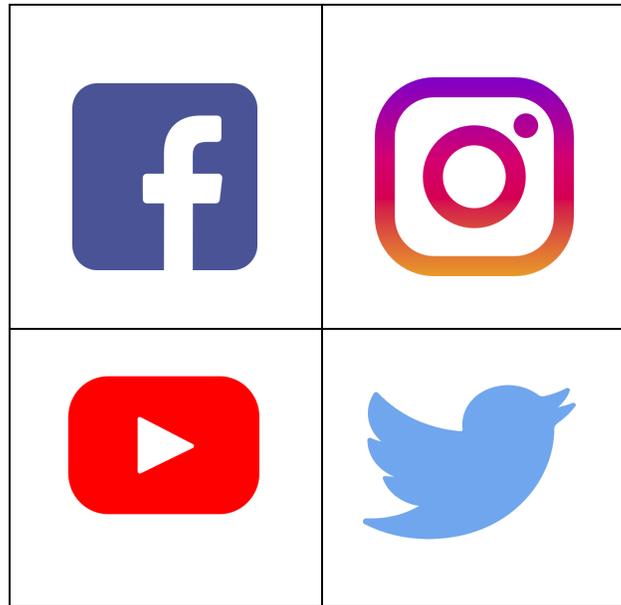
The CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Group met Tuesday, November 27 at Pizza Antica in downtown Champaign. There were 19 who enjoyed lunch, visiting and celebrating Marilou Hinrichs' and John Osborne's birthdays with cake and wine! Joining us were: Lisa and Tee Fowler, Jan Himes, Becky Sheridan, Nancy Hill, Marilou Hinrichs, Ann Marlow and Harprit Sandhu, Ken and Ruth Gilbert and Ruth's sister Marj, Linda Morgan, Jan Hiland & Stephen Koderup, Sue and John Osborne, Tom Ward and Roger and Peg Wade. Our December lunch will be Tuesday, December 18 - watch for further details.



*Photo Courtesy of Peg Wade*

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## Find CUCC online!



Contact us:

805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL. 61820 | 217-344-5091 | [www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org) | [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday | 9am - 3pm