



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

Volume 56, Issue 02 - February 1, 2019

*A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation*

## e-Communigram



This month's newsletter features:

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## Letters from Leah

Honestly, I'm still taking it all in. I'm still taking in the implications of the staffing task force's recommendation to hire a full time associate pastor. To be clear, I am grateful for their recommendation and the thoughtful, discerning work that led to it. I am grateful and still needing space to see their recommendation amidst the landscape of our life together at Community UCC. Now the question is, whether we can be creative and faithful to make it happen?

Additionally, I'm awaiting, eagerly, the results of the engineer's assessment. What will they say about our building envelope? Is it sound? Is it in dire need of repair? Or, it is feasible, do-able, possible? I did get distracted from waiting for the engineer's report when the patch of ceiling fell in and a second window got broken out of the 6<sup>th</sup> street side of the building. And when the door stopped working. And when the women's room back toilet broke. Will the whole thing fall down around us while we're waiting for the engineer's report? Probably not, but it sure feels like it some days. And, so, we gather quotes for the list of small repairs and wait for the big reveal of the cost of capital projects. The question here, as above, is whether we can be creative and faithful to make it happen?

Meanwhile, the Campus Ministry Board waits for the Conference LEAPP Committee, the granting committee to which Campus Ministry has applied for funding to hire a new Campus Minister. CUCC has stepped up and lived more fully into our role embracing Campus Ministry as one of our primary mission fields. I have followed suit, shifting some of my work hours to cover essential pastoral functions in Campus Ministry, which is enjoyable, and yet, not sustainable for the long term. Will Campus Ministry receive the grants for which they've applied, continue increasing their direct fundraising efforts with alums and Conference churches? It seems as if the same question applies: Can we be creative and faithful to make it happen?

Is it possible for CUCC and Campus Ministry to create a shared position? An Associate pastor of CUCC who is also the Campus Minister? Someone who divides their time between the two entities and more fully bridges the places where our ministries overlap? Is that the right direction? Could that work?

Considering all these factors is like looking at a pile of puzzle pieces. Some pieces fit together nicely. Other pieces have oddly shaped edges, and are differently shaped than what we are used to. Laying all the pieces out makes for a cattywampus, and – AND – we know full well that a few pieces of the puzzle are missing from the stack!

Some of those pieces will fall into place when the capital campaign task force chooses a consultant and is able, with estimates in hand for staffing and work needed, to do a feasibility study. But some of the pieces to this puzzle will emerge over time.

Maybe it's a good thing that Pastor Connie and I have chosen to pair the lectionary texts throughout Lent with chapters from the book "God, Improv, and the Art of Living" by MaryAnn McKibbon Dana. In her book, McKibbon Dana set the seven principles of improv as a guide for faithful living. These principles prove especially helpful when you find yourself in a place where you feel stuck. And although we aren't exactly stuck right now, we are in a holding pattern. Ash Wednesday is March 6. Lent begins and runs through April 14, Palm Sunday, when we will welcome spoken word artist Manon Voice ([www...](http://www...)); On April 18, Maundy Thursday, we'll have again this year, the sanctuary open for several hours during which people of all ages can move through a series of prayer stations and receive communion; On April 19, Good Friday, we will have our traditional, moving worship service that takes us through the passion of Christ in word, art, and song; then, at last, on April 21, Easter morning, we'll gather first for our annual Easter carry-in breakfast and festival worship. Throughout Lent, on Sundays after worship, join us on the lower level to try out some of the improv practices McKibbon Dana outlines in her book – this will be fun! Come and play! And, join pub theology on Monday nights to discuss the book. Come eat, or volunteer, at Jubilee Café before!



Blessings,

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## Mark your calendars for these upcoming CUCC events!

**February 8** - Campus Ministry Presents: Queering the Faith 2.0 featuring Bishop Yvette Flunder at 7:30pm

**February 9** - Brunch with the Bishop from 10:30am-12:30pm (event is open to high-school and college students)

**February 13** - Communion & Conversation at Clark Lindsay, 3pm

**February 17** - Chad O'Neil's Ecclesial Council, 3pm

**February 22** - All church intergenerational game night at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

**February 23** - Confirmation Retreat, 9am-2pm

**March 6** - Ash Wednesday

SAVE THE DATE

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## Moderator's Musings

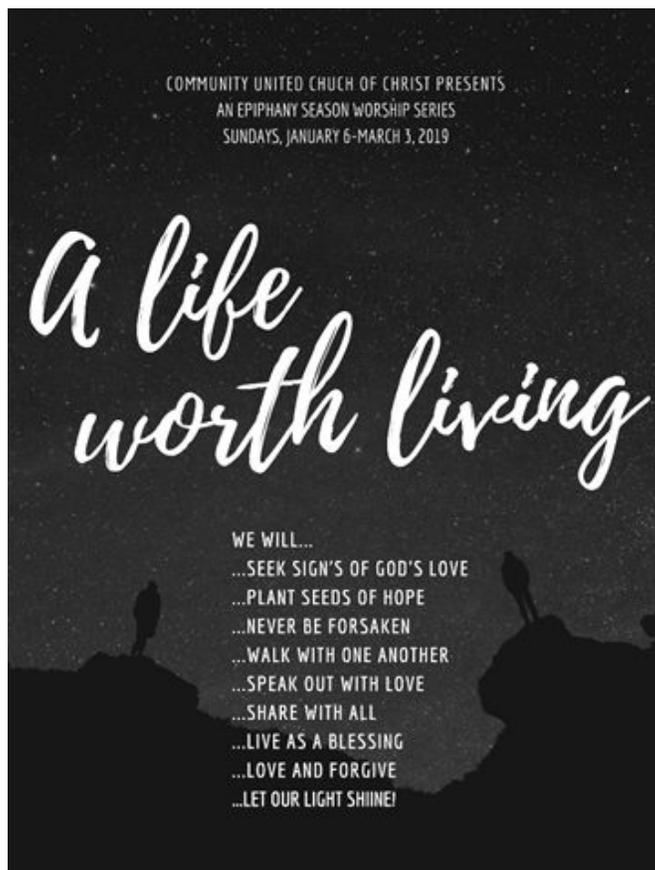
We've recently spent some Sundays in church thinking about two of the most famous passages from the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. It's easy to forget that these letters were not necessarily meant to state timeless wisdom but to help congregations, people who sought to understand the ways of God, people gathered for reasons not unlike our own. In I Corinthians 12, Paul uses metaphor to emphasize the unique contributions each person makes to church life; metaphors compare two unlike people, places, or ideas in hopes of highlighting the one similar amazing quality that shines through both parts of the comparison. And, so, we contribute to our community in our own particular way, as the hand, foot, ear, and so on make up the body. We are all different, and yet essential to church life. But the Apostle implies that this is not enough with the hugely famous following chapter. When he writes of love, he uses amplification, a formal language technique that uses an expansive string of words to create an expanded sense of the world. Love *grows* in this chapter; it is patient, kind, it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. The immense size of love and the world it creates leads to the conclusion that we now know only in part but that we will know in full. We will know, I suspect, as one body, one congregation. When

we love one another, we grow, we come to see as the eye sees, as the hand touches, as the foot walks, as the ear hears, even as we remain as unique as our thumbprints. To use another metaphor, we're an orchestra, our individual lines coming together in a beautiful whole when we do the work of the church. So, as we do that work this month, as we think, plan, patch, cook, serve, give, sing, and pray, let us grow together, become ever more, in God's love.

Take care, John Murphy

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## Our "A Life Worth Living" worship series continues through February



***A Life Worth Living*** is an expansion and revision of Marcia McFee's "For the Sake of Life" Series, shaped by Pastor Connie.

In John 10:10, we hear Jesus declare, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." But, how does abundant life really happen? What are its hallmarks?

This series asks, "How can we live so that we experience the abundant life Jesus promises?"

Each week is anchored by an intention for the week, something WE WILL look for, believe, or do. Setting such intentions and moving towards them intentionally will draw us into the abundant life that Jesus promised, which is ours already. This series also reminds us, at every turn, that the abundant life Jesus promises is not for only for us, but for our neighbors as well. We will plant, walk, speak, share, and shine, being drawn in ever more so to a life worth living. That's the birthright of all people as children of God. See what's in store for you this Epiphany Season!

**February 10, 2019--WE WILL SHARE WITH ALL** focuses on Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

*The familiar "Who will go for me?" text invites us to consider how we are sent to share what we have received from God.*

**February 17, 2019--WE WILL LIVE AS BLESSING** focuses on Matthew 15:21-28

*Intern Larissa Kluwe will be preaching reminding us to not put up walls because we are called to live as a blessing.*

**February 24, 2019--WE WILL LOVE AND FORGIVE** focuses on Luke 6:27-38

*When we live with intention, mindful of our own shortcomings, and with the knowledge that our enemies are also beloved children of God, we are able to practice forgiveness instead of holding grudges. We are better able to lead with love. How might setting this intention change you, our cities, our country, our world?*

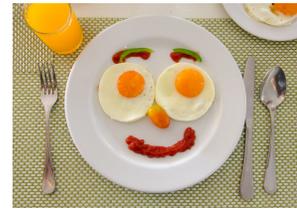
**March 3, 2019—Transfiguration Sunday--WE WILL LET OUR LIGHT SHINE** focuses on Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

*Through the familiar Transfiguration story, as followers of Christ, we have come to know that we too are "transfigured, enlightened, emblazoned". So we live as those who are part of God's reign of light and love.*

**Remember: Lent starts on March 6 with Ash Wednesday.**

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**Our No-Agenda, Just-for-Fun Breakfast** will be Wednesday, February 13th, at 8:30am. at Perkins on University. Everyone is welcome! It helps to have a general idea of how many to expect, so please sign up on the whiteboard in the parlor or let Pastor Connie know you plan to come. If you find you can come at the last minute, however, please do-- we'll make room!



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## All Church Intergenerational Game Night - Friday, February 22



The fund begins at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a snack to share & your favorite game if you wish. Some games & drinks will be provided. Questions? Talk to Randy Musser and/or Peg Wade.

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**Worship Team Requests** Please consider joining our team of **greeters** whose role it is to welcome people into our sanctuary each week. This is a great way to meet our church community members and give a moment of undivided attention to someone who might need a handshake, kind word, or hug Sunday morning. We are looking for people to help welcome at the door as well as at the "name tag trees".



We'd also love to hear new voices from the lectern. Please consider serving as **liturgist** one Sunday. Pastor Leah will train you and make sure you have readings ahead of the service.

Contact Kathy Lee ([K.Kew.Lee@gmail.com](mailto:K.Kew.Lee@gmail.com), 203-605-3830) to be added to the Greeter and Liturgist sign-up sheets, or visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d49a5a92fa13-greeters>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d49a5a92fa13-cucc1>

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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: please 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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## From our Director of Youth Ministries

Dear Community,

We continue to have Sunday School, Confirmation classes and youth group each month with the youth (6th-12th grade) throughout January. We have youth group planned for January 24th following the worship service.

We have activities on the following dates in February:

Confirmation Class: February 10, 2019

Sunday School: February 17, 2019

Confirmation Class: February 24, 2019

Youth (6th-12th grade) are encouraged to stay in worship on Confirmation Class Sundays if they are not in the Confirmation class.

We will have Youth Group (6th-12th grade) on Sunday, February 10th following the worship service. More details to come!

We will have Confirmation workshop on Saturday, February 23rd at CUCC from 9am- 2:00pm. (Lunch will be provided.) This will be an opportunity for the Confirmands to learn more about prayer, their gifts and talents and the Ten Commandments. We are looking forward to spending the day with the Confirmands and the Confirmation sponsors.

The Confirmands will be sharing a little more about themselves so you can get to know them better. Look for these introductions in future Communigrams!

Blessings, Jessica Smiley

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**Breeze Church Management Software** As you may have read in previous Communigrams and Sunday bulletins, we are migrating our membership 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: <http://community-ucc.org/2018-database-renewal/>. 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). Nonmembers who would like communications from CUCC are encouraged to fill-out an online registration form as well!

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## **Ecclesiastical Council, Member in Discernment: Chad O'Neil - February 17th at 3pm**

Since finishing my chaplain residency this past August I have continued to work part time as a hospital chaplain at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center in Bloomington-Normal, IL and Carle Hospital here in Urbana, IL. In addition to continuing my work as a chaplain, I received approval of the Committee on Ministry (COM) to have my Ecclesiastical Council February 17th at 3pm at Community United Church of Christ (CUCC).

As a part of the Ecclesiastical Council, representatives from churches throughout our regional conference (Eastern Association, Illinois Conference) will gather at Community United Church of Christ (CUCC). Members of the Committee on Ministry (COM) and our very own Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser will provide a brief introduction to me and the council process for those gathered. Representatives along with anyone from the broader community who likes will have an opportunity to review my ordination paper and ask questions. Once i have responded to these questions I will depart for a period of discussion among those gathered concerning my readiness for ordination. Once a decision has been made I will return to hear this decision. I look forward to this opportunity to connect with our broader community. If you have any questions prior to the council please feel free to email me ([chadon@gmail.com](mailto:chadon@gmail.com)).

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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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## **Milwaukee to Host General Synod in 2019**

Mark your calendars for June 21-25, 2019 ! 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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## **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 and/or providing Thursday Open House snacks We appreciate you taking a look at the dates and signing up as you are available.

## Queering Faith 2.0

# queering faith 2.0

WITH  
BISHOP YVETTE FLUNDER

"Trying to establish a relationship with a God that barely tolerates you, but cannot truly accept, and certainly will never celebrate you, can do incredible damage to one's self esteem. The tortured historical and theological view that suggests that some people are just flawed... has been the convenient method used to hold women, immigrants, the poor, and LGBT people in chains of self-depreciation. We all need community."  
- Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder



**Friday, February 8, 2019, 7:30 pm**  
**Community UCC, 805 S 6th St**

Sponsored by  
UCC Campus Ministry, Community UCC, Illini Hillel,  
Planned Parenthood, the UP Center, University YMCA, &  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign

diaspora. We provide pastoral care for LGBTI people and support pioneering efforts to establish an open and affirming African Christian movement.

Rev. Dr. Flunder is on the Board of Starr King School for the Ministry and DEMOS and has taught at many theological schools. She is a graduate of the Certificate of Ministry and Master of Arts programs at PSR, and received her Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary. She is also an award winning gospel music artist and author of *Where the Edge Gathers: A Theology of Homiletic and Radical Inclusion*.

Queering Faith 2.0 is made possible by a generous grant from the E. Rhodes and *Leona B. Carpenter Foundation*, with our community partners Community UCC, Illini Hillel, Planned Parenthood, the UP Center of Champaign County, University YMCA, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign, and our nest church, Community UCC.

UCC Campus Ministry at UIUC is pleased to host Queering Faith 2.0 featuring the Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder, a preeminent leader in the LGBT movement in America. Over the last twenty-five years Bishop Flunder has been instrumental in shaping faith messaging to advance LGBT dignity and acceptance in spiritual settings and has made great impact on HIV/AIDS policies regarding people of color in the US and Zimbabwe.

**The event will begin at 7:30 pm on Friday, February 8. A conversation and brunch for students (college, high-school, youth) with Rev. Dr. Flunder will take place the next morning, February 9 from 10:30am-12:30pm. Invite your friends!**

A San Francisco native, Rev. Dr. Flunder has served her call through prophetic action and ministry for justice for over thirty years. This call to "blend proclamation, worship, service and advocacy on behalf of those most marginalized in church and in society" led to the founding of the City of Refuge United Church of Christ in 1991.

In 2003, Rev. Dr. Flunder was consecrated Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a multi-denominational coalition of over 100 primarily African American Christian leaders and laity The Fellowship Global is positioned to be a catalyst for a pan-African faith movement, connecting the radically inclusive Christian movement led by African Americans and our allies to communities in Africa and throughout the

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## It's February: the beginning of Black History Month

Are you up for a challenge?

The “21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge” was created by Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., Debby Irving, and Dr. Marguerite Penick-Parks in cooperation with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for the first National Day of Racial Healing in 2016.

The 21-Day challenge asks us to challenge ourselves with one thing each day to expand our awareness: read, listen, watch, notice, connect, engage, or act. You are then asked to reflect on what you did, how you felt, and what you learned. The plan list suggestions for each item, and includes a chart to keep track of your progress. Visit the website [here](#).



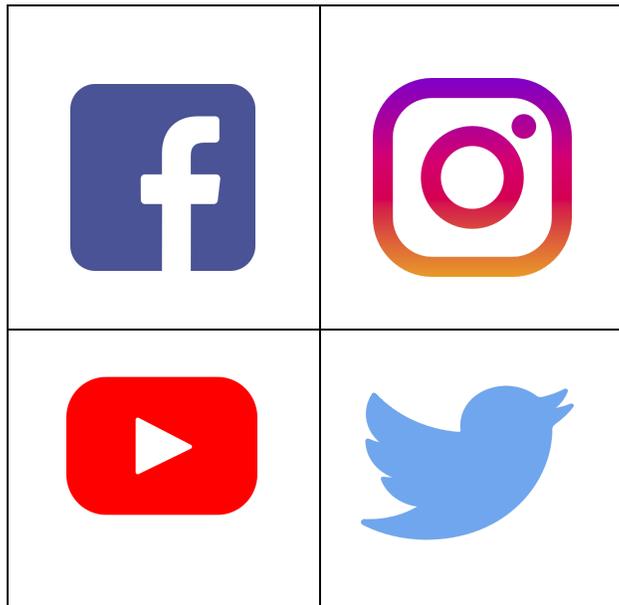
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## Did you miss worship?

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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## 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

## What's Happening at CUCC in February?

### Monday, February 4

- Jubilee Cafe prep 2:00pm
- Jubilee Cafe 5:00-6:30pm
- Jubilee Cleanup 6:30pm
- Pub Theology 7:15pm
- Campus Ministry Bible Study 6:45pm

### Tuesday, February 5

### Wednesday, February 6

- Book Club 1:30pm at Lincoln Square Mall
- Choir Rehearsal at 7:00pm

### Thursday, February 7

- Men's Breakfast at Urbana Garden Restaurant 7:00am
- International Friendship Group 10:00am
- AA 8:00pm-10:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

### Friday, February 8

- Queering Faith 2.0 7:30pm

### Saturday, February 9

- Campus Ministry Brunch with Bishop Yvette Flunder 10:30am-12:30pm

### Sunday, February 10

- Choir Rehearsal at 9:30am
- Classic Worship at 10:15am
- Confirmation Class
- Sunday School
- Youth Group after worship
- AA Meeting 7:30pm-9:30pm (Parlor)

### Monday, February 11

- Jubilee Cafe prep 2pm
- Jubilee Cafe 5:00-6:30pm
- Jubilee Cleanup 6:30pm
- Campus Ministry Bible Study 6:45pm
- Pub Theology 7:15pm

### Tuesday, February 12

### Wednesday, February 13

- 8:30am Just for Fun Breakfast at Perkins on University Ave.
- Conversation & Communion at Clark Lindsey 3pm
- Choir Rehearsal at 7:00pm

### Thursday, February 14-Happy Valentine's Day!

- International Friendship Group at 10:00am
- Campus Ministry Open House 1-4pm
- AA 8:00pm-10:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

### Friday, February 15

- CUCC Offices Closed

### Saturday, February 16

- CUCC Offices Closed

### Sunday, February 17

- Choir Rehearsal at 7:00pm
- Classic Worship at 10:15am
- Sunday School & Youth Sunday School
- Chad O'Neil's Ecclesial Council 3pm
- AA Meeting 7:30pm-9:30pm (Parlor)

### Monday, February 18-Presidents Day

- Pastor Leah taking a comp day
- Jubilee Cafe prep 2pm
- Jubilee Cafe 5:00-6:30pm
- Jubilee Cleanup 6:30pm
- Campus Ministry Open House 1-4:00pm
- Pub Theology 7:15pm

### Tuesday, February 19

- Pastor Leah taking a personal day
- Retirees Luncheon at Lodgic Everyday Kitchen Restaurant
- CLB Meeting 6:30pm

### Wednesday, February 20

- Choir Rehearsal at 7:00pm

### Thursday, February 21

- International Friendship Group 10:00am
- Campus Ministry Open House 1-4pm
- AA 8:00pm-10:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

### Friday, February 22-CUCC Offices Closed

- CUCC all church intergenerational game night 6:30pm

### Saturday, February 23

- CUCC Offices Closed
- Confirmation Workshop 9am-2pm

### Sunday, February 24

- Choir Rehearsal 9:30am
- Classic worship at 10:15am
- Confirmation Class
- Sunday School
- AA meeting 7:30-9:00pm (parlor)

### Monday, February 25

- Jubilee Cafe prep 2pm
- Jubilee Cafe 5:00-6:30pm
- Jubilee Cleanup 6:30pm
- Pub Theology 7:15pm

### Tuesday, February 26

- Pastoral Relations Meeting 4:45pm
- Canteen Run prep 3:00pm-5:00pm

### Wednesday, February 27

- Choir Rehearsal at 7:00pm

### Thursday, February 28

- International Friendship Group 10:00am
- Campus Ministry Open House 1-4pm
- AA 8:00pm-10:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

