



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

Volume 56, Issue 03 - March 1, 2019

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

## e-Communigram



This month's newsletter features:

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- Save-the-Date-pg. 1
- Lenten Worship Series pg. 2
- Volunteer Opportunities-pg. 4
- Youth News-pg. 4

### Mark your calendars for these upcoming CUCC events!

**Wednesday, March 6** - Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. Childcare available.

**Sunday, March 10** - First Sunday of Lent and Daylight Saving Time begins.

**Saturday, April 6** - UCC Eastern Association Meeting and Rev. Tom Norwalk's retirement party at St. Paul's UCC, Monee, IL.

**Sunday, April 14** - Palm Sunday - 10:15am Worship featuring special guest and spoken word artist, Manon Voice

**Thursday, April 18** - Maundy Thursday - Details TBA. Childcare available.

**Friday, April 19** - Good Friday service at 7pm. Childcare available.

**Sunday, April 21** - Easter Worship service at 10:15am with an 8:30am potluck breakfast preceding.

**SAVE THE DATE**

### Moderator's Musings

Many of us find online social media a mixed blessing. I'm happy that Facebook and Twitter have reconnected me with old friends from high school and college, people with whom I had long ago lost touch. To see them again, learn about their lives, and receive their support from afar through good times and bad has been a real blessing. And I've often seen posts about politics, history, racism, and religion that have brought me up short, made me think, caused me to laugh aloud. Yet there is, we all know, a meanness the medium seems to encourage. Perhaps because we are or feel alone when we tweet or post, we indulge our anger in ways we don't when someone is there, in our space, eyes brimming with tears at our thoughtlessness. I try to remind myself that an "account" is, Russian bots excepted, a person, a child of God, beloved of God.

Oddly, or perhaps not so oddly, a dog (well, person as dog) makes that plain every day. Thoughts of Dog has become my favorite Twitter account. "There was a sandwich," Dog noted, "on the edge of the counter. and now there isn't. those are all the details. we can confirm so far. the piece of lettuce on my nose. is purely circumstantial." Mischief is not all; sometimes, there's practical advice: "gooooob morning. be sure to start your day with a stretchum. maybe

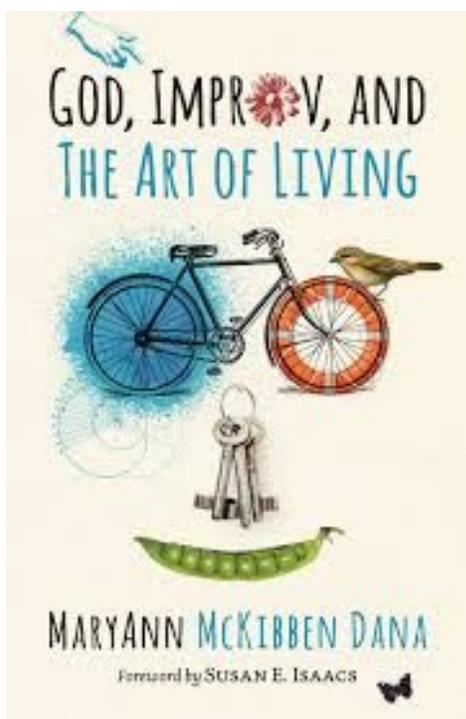
even a wiggle. now you're ready for anything. the haters won't know what hit them." Meetings with stuffed fren sebastian are always important. And then there are the reminders that dog is simply God spelled backwards: "sometimes. the human presses their noggin against mine. to figure out what I'm thinking. so I just think really hard. about how much I love them. and hope they figure it out." So endeth the lesson from the Gospel of Dog.

Have a wonderful month, John

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## God, Improv, and the Art of Living Lenten Worship begins Sunday, March 10

*This worship series is loosely based on God, Improv, and the Art of Living by Maryann McKibben Dana*



### March 10

Scripture—Luke 4:1-13

#### PRINCIPLE 1—Say Yes

*What does the story of Jesus' saying no to temptation have to do with saying yes? Sometimes we have to say no in order to be able to say yes to something better, the something God calls us to be and do.*

### March 17

Scripture—Genesis 12:1-9

#### PRINCIPLE 2—Say And

*Today's text is the story of God's making covenant with Abraham. While Abraham lies down in a "terrifying darkness," it is in that scary place that the covenant is enacted. When we follow God's call, it can be both scary AND a blessing, not just for us but also for others.*

### March 24

Scripture—Isaiah 55:1-9

#### PRINCIPLE 3—Train Your Vision

*Isaiah asks us, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" When we train our vision on God and God's purposes in the world, everything else falls into place.*

### March 31

Scripture—Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

#### PRINCIPLE 4—Find Your Troupe

*Sometimes it takes us a while to discover who "our people" are. The prodigal searches in all sorts of places, with all sorts of dead ends, before "coming to himself" and coming home to the one who has never stopped loving him and welcomes him with open arms.*

### April 7

Scripture—Isaiah 43:16-21

#### PRINCIPLE 5—Find the Right Structure

*Holy Week plans are still underway. Please check future bulletins, announcements, and emails for information.*

### April 14

Scripture—Luke 19:28-40

#### PRINCIPLE 6—Live More Deeply

*This is **Palm Sunday**, a time to reflect on the path Jesus chooses that seemingly leads to destruction but in reality opens the way to life for us. It is an invitation to reject those things that distract us from focusing on the work God*

*calls us to do, even when things are difficult. **Special guest Manon Voice joins us today.***

*Manon Voice is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana and is a poet, spoken word artist, freelance writer, hip-hop emcee and social justice activist. She has performed on many diverse stages in the power of word and song and has taught and facilitated art, poetry and spoken word workshops through organizations such as Regeneration Indy and Women Writing for a Change. She has been a featured panelist for Indianapolis based organizations, Indy10 Black Lives Matter, Don't Sleep and events such as IUPUI's 2017 Social Justice Symposium, focusing on the intersections of race, gender, art and activism. She is actively the Mentor Match Coordinator of Homelessness Prevention at the Indianapolis based organization, Trusted Mentors, which seeks to reverse homelessness and incarceration through the power of relationships. She is a proud board member of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, has volunteered for organizations such as Life Bridges and Global Gifts, and is a facilitator and hip-hop music instructor for Kuumba Academy. She is the host and founder of Project 5547 Poetry Night at CoalYard Coffee in Indianapolis' Irvington neighborhood. In 2017, Manon Voice was awarded the Power of Peace Award from the Peace Learning Center of Central Indiana for her work in the community. Manon Voice seeks to use her art and activism to create a communal space where dialogue, transformation, discovery and inspiration can occur.* *-spiritandplace.org*



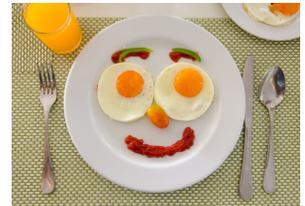
**April 21** Scripture—John 20:1-18 /Luke 24:1-12

PRINCIPLE 7—Go Off-Plan

*It's **Easter!** Resurrection disrupts our expectations (or plans?) and shows us the possibility of something more than we could ever have imagined.*

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**Our No-Agenda, Just-for-Fun Breakfast** will be Wednesday, March 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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**Easter Breakfast** The Hospitality Team will host CUCC's annual Easter Breakfast prior to our Easter worship service on Sunday, April 21. The breakfast will begin at 8:30am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We will provide coffee, hot water, juice, milk, bacon & sausage and table service. You are invited to bring a breakfast dish to share (egg casserole, quiche, fruit, muffins, pastries, etc.). This is always a popular event leading up to an awesome Easter worship service, so mark your calendars now.

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

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

Campus Ministry Student Lunch Sign-Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0449ada728a0fe3-student>

Jubilee Cafe: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e45a5ae2caa8-volunteer12>

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## **From our Director of Youth Ministries**

Dear Community,

It seems like February has passed by pretty quickly. The 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders attended Sunday School, youth group and Confirmation Classes throughout the month of February.

The Confirmands continue to learn more and more regarding what it means to be a progressive Christian. We have learned about four points as of last week:

1. Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;

2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;

3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:

- Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
- Believers and agnostics,
- Women and men,
- Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
- Those of all classes and abilities;

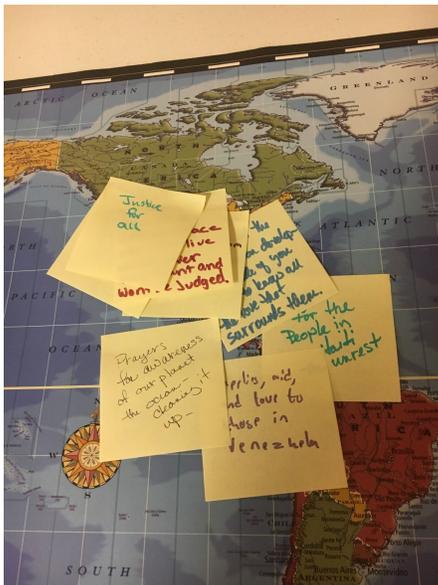


4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;

We had our Confirmation workshop on Saturday, February 23rd. The six Confirmands and their sponsors spent time with each other, learning more about prayer, Ten Commandments and the importance of being our true selves. The youth participated along with their sponsors with various activities including prayer stations. I encourage you to check in with the youth and/or sponsors about their experience with the workshop.

Below are the names of our Confirmands and their Sponsors:

- Anya Gardner - Kristy Brownfield
- Amelia Isaacs - Jennifer Robbennolt
- Claire Keenan - Beth Hogan
- Owen Mahannah - Sue Osborne
- Joel Powers-Ege - Tom Ward
- Alex Kloster - Lucy Cross



Below are some introductions from a couple of our Confirmands:

“My name is Owen Manhannah. I am 12 years old and in the sixth grade. I love dogs and I have two of them myself. I like helping out with training dogs with a professional trainer. One thing I’ve learned from confirmation are a few of the eight points of Christianity. The thing I love most about see you CUCC is how opening everyone is to everyone else, no matter who they are. Everyone is so friendly! I love CUCC!”

“My name is Alex Kloster (they/them). I am 16 and a sophomore. I like to read, draw, take pictures and play video games. In confirmation I have learned about the eight tiers of progressive of Christianity. One thing I like about CUCC is the welcoming community.”

More Confirmand introductions to come in March!

The youth group went to Skateland this month for our youth group activity. The youth seemed to be way more coordinated than me when it came to skating. I learned that it is much harder to recover from a fall as an adult so I think my skating days are officially done. :)

We will have youth group (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade) on **March 24<sup>th</sup>** following worship. More details to come!

Other important dates for March for our youth include:

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**: Youth Sunday School (following the Children's Moment)

**March 10<sup>th</sup>**: Confirmation Class during the worship service

**March 17<sup>th</sup>**: Youth Sunday School (following the Children's Moment)

**March 24<sup>th</sup>**: Confirmation Class during the worship service

**March 31<sup>st</sup>**: Youth Sunday School (following the Children's Moment)



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## Breeze Church Management Software

We have migrated our membership data to Breeze Church Management software. We believe this software 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 from you such as email addresses, phone numbers, and home addresses entered in the online registration form. Use this link to complete your registration form <http://community-ucc.org/2018-database-renewal/>. Nonmembers who would like communications from CUCC are encouraged to fill-out an online registration form as well.

***Please note: filling out the initial registration form does not automatically create a Breeze login & password. Your data is captured, but it's not accessible to view or edit until you've received an explicit invitation from a CUCC Breeze administrator.***

Once invitations to create a Breeze login and password are emailed, members will then be able to update their information freely. This includes preferred contact methods, changes in the family, and pictures for our directory.

If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact our Clerk, Josh Smith, about the new software by emailing him at [clerk@community-ucc.org](mailto:clerk@community-ucc.org).



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## Congratulations Johnell Bentz & Jubilee Café!

You're invited to attend the 10th Annual Social Justice Awards Gala on Saturday, March 30. Join us as we celebrate Honorable Mention Jubilee Café and Community Individual Recipient Johnell Bentz!



Jubilee Cafe at  
Community United  
Church of Christ

The evening's festivities will begin with a reception at 5:30pm in the McKinley Foundation's Living Room. While enjoying drinks, hors d'oeuvres and live music, get to know the award winners and runners up by visiting their

displays. You may also bid on myriad dining and entertainment options during the silent auction and raffle.

At 6:45pm dinner and the program will begin in Westminster Hall. Dr. Rebecca L. Sandefur, who won a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship in 2018 for her work in civil justice, is the keynote speaker.

Please visit [www.mckinley-foundation.org](http://www.mckinley-foundation.org) to register for the event. Once you're to the webpage, click the "social justice awards" tab at the top of the page. Scroll down until you see "click to register online." On your registration please indicate you are part of the "Jubilee Café" group. Individual tickets are \$60 each. Ticket price includes reception, dinner, beverage service, and dessert. Tables of 8 may be purchased at a discounted rate of \$450.

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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.

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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 ([www.youtube.com/communityucc](http://www.youtube.com/communityucc)). 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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Contact CUCC:

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

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