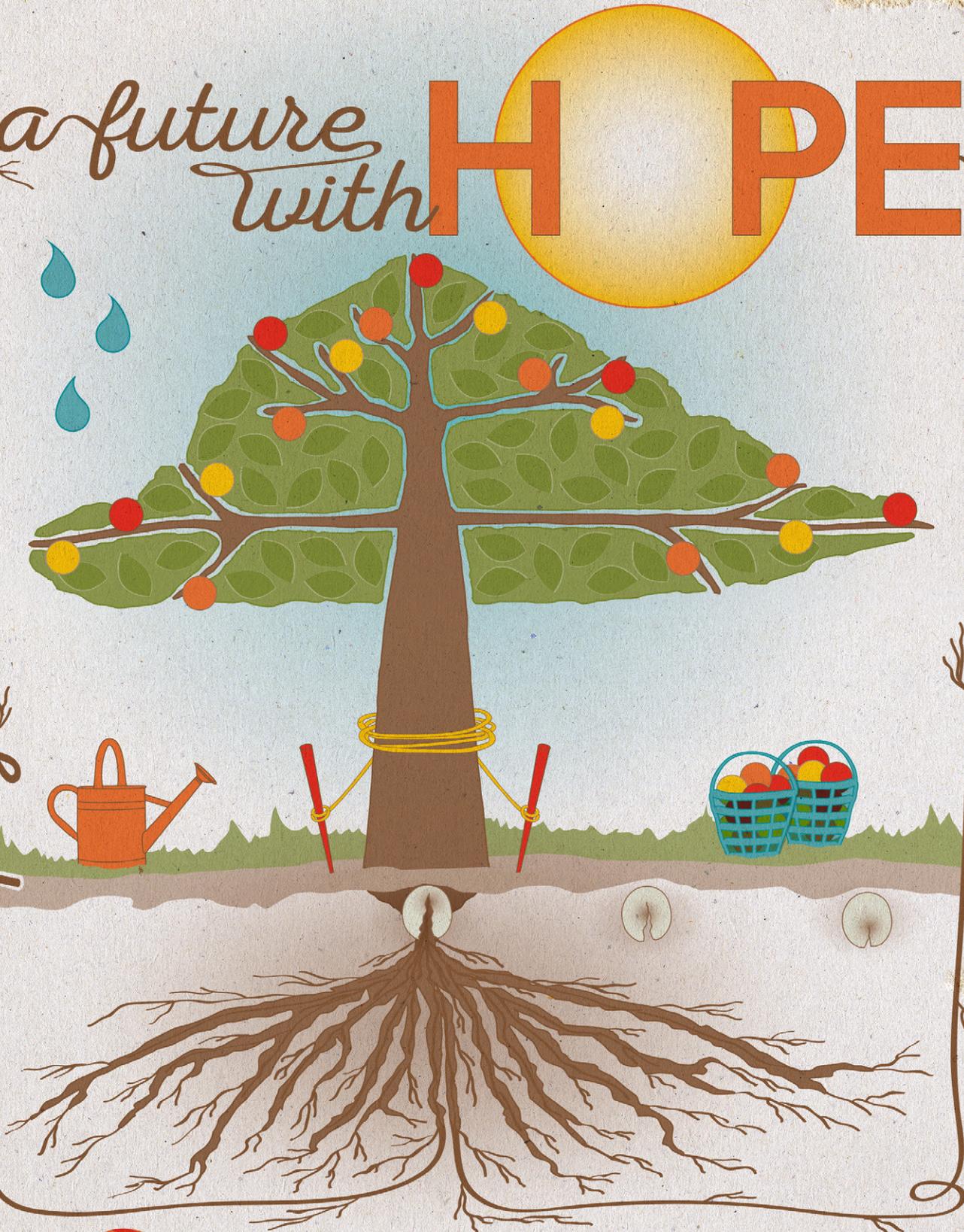


a future
with

HOPE

deeply rooted



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope

from our pastor

One hundred eleven years ago, our forebearers began discerning a question that would shape not only their lives, but the lives of thousands of people over the next century: should we move our church to campus to be in relationship with students, professors, and the university community? It took time, but the decision was made. At the corner of 6th and Daniel they sunk their Congregationalist roots down deep. Over a century later, Community United Church of Christ continues to grow where our forebearers planted us. Now, we share our welcoming, inclusive, progressive Christian values with the university community, greater Champaign-Urbana, and beyond.



Annually, students return to campus to find a warm welcome among us. The questions of students, and adults alike, are welcomed here. Pick up one of the rainbow “you are loved for who you are” hearts we hand out at Pride Fest, though, and have one question answered for certain: God loves you! And so do we.

Weekly, we feed more than hungry bellies at Jubilee Café, we feed people’s need for human interaction, care, and belonging. On Monday evenings, grad students sit alongside people who have graduated from the school of hard knocks, breaking bread together, all while being served by our expansive team of volunteers. If that’s not a glimpse of the Kin-dom of God, I don’t know what is. Weekly, we also provide space for three recovery groups, an international friendship group, and, new this fall, three English-as-a-second-language conversation classes. Our doors are wide open to the community – that, too, is a glimpse of the Great Banquet.

Daily, tens of thousands of people pass by the “church with the flags” and see with their own eyes that the gospel of love insists that peace will only come with justice. Each day, our church offers welcome and care to members of the wider community as well as one another. How often have I heard one of us refer to their “Cucc family” and mean it? It happens all the time! In our Sunday School, our children know they are loved and cared for. In youth group, our teens ask hard questions and cultivate hearts for service. With the help of committed adults, our young people learn and grow. At Pub Theology and at any of our myriad mid-week meals, folks deepen the bonds of friendship. With new programming from The John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith, housed in the Jack Good Library, we will all have the opportunity to deepen our faith life through classes, retreats, and the resources offered there. And, weekly in worship, through song and scripture, prayer and praise, in laughter and love we turn our collective hearts and minds to the care of our Creator, the way of Jesus, and the movement of the Spirit so that we might leave that sacred space renewed, committed to using our time, talents, and treasure to bend the arc of the universe evermore towards justice.

All of this, and more, happens in the little yellow church on the corner that is in need of some major TLC. We have many repairs to make and upgrades to undergo. We’ve set a goal that we can reach. In fact, we suspect we’ll exceed it. Who knows what plans the Holy may have!

Friends, believe this: in this age of conservative backlash, the witness of progressive Christianity is a saving grace for so many. Each time I go to events in the wider church, people share with me how moved they are by the ministry we do together as a community of faith. I couldn’t be more proud to serve as your pastor, here in this place, where we are worth our words.

Blessings,

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser, Pastor

Dear Community,

We are each blessed to be part of an engaged and supportive faith community, people who care about each other and about the broader world. We are a campus church, repeatedly affirming our collective desire to be a beacon of hope in this place. We are a “doing” church with branches that reach beyond our walls. We are an open and affirming church, celebrating our 25th anniversary of having formally made that covenant. We are deeply rooted in community—in this community—and collectively look toward a future with hope.



To do all of this effectively, we need to update and prepare our building—our 100 year old building!—to fully support the missions that we have set for ourselves. We need to be good stewards of our space—to repair and prevent further damage. We need to make the building as welcoming as we are as a community—to make it accessible and approachable to all.

To this end, we are embarking on a major capital building campaign: the Deeply Rooted campaign. The plans include overhauling the (now defunct) elevator, significant masonry and concrete work, roof repairs including full replacement of some sections, new paint and plaster in the sanctuary, resurfacing of the parking lot, installing a projector in the sanctuary, and updating the parlor flooring and furnishings so that we can make better and more varied use of that space. Each of these projects will help to ensure we can continue our mission activities.

Not surprisingly, doing all of this will take significant financial resources. Your Church Life Board, the Building Task Force, and the Finance Ministry Team have been diligently assessing building needs and obtaining estimates. With this information in hand, we have challenged ourselves to a collective goal of raising \$500,000. This may sound daunting, but it is our hope that if everyone participates as fully as they can, together we can cultivate our physical foundation in ways that will support the next generation and the work of the next 100 years.

Over the course of the fall, your Deeply Rooted team will be working hard to carry out this project. You will each be encouraged to prayerfully consider your capital campaign pledge and asked to give joyously and generously.

Note that this capital campaign will be happening at the same time as our regular annual stewardship drive to support the operating budget of the church. None of us wants pledges to the capital campaign to take away from our ongoing support for the regular ministries of CUCC. Your annual financial gifts, along with your gifts of time and talents, make it possible to have dynamic worship experiences, rewarding mission and education programs, a concerned and caring community, and vibrant staff to help make it all happen. So, you will be asked to continue and even increase your annual giving, and also to consider a gift to the capital campaign. On November 3, capital campaign and annual stewardship drive pledges will both be dedicated.

Please take this opportunity to think and pray about how your pledges to both the capital campaign and the annual stewardship drive will allow the ministry of CUCC to be a symbol of hope and a concrete presence for the future. I am grateful for all of your past and present contributions to our good work in our community and beyond.

Grace and Peace,

Jen Robbennolt, *Deeply Rooted Capital Campaign Team Leader*





Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope

Community United Church of Christ

is a deeply rooted community of people who care about each other and the world beyond the walls of our building.

We are known as "the church with the flags" — the rainbow flag, the Black Lives Matter flag, the peace with justice flag, the coexist flag. Over 100 years ago, God planted us in the heart of campus to shine the light of progressive Christianity, to work for social justice, to welcome everyone as an open and affirming church, and to be a home away from home for students. Two years ago, we opened Jubilee Café, where we feed more than hungry bellies. We feed the need for belonging and connection across lines of difference.

Caring for our building shows our commitment to the campus and surrounding community as a place to worship, to belong, and to serve.

This fall, we come together to support a campaign that makes our building as welcoming as our people and that supports our mission to the community and the world beyond.



*We are a
doing church,
not a talking
church.*

— Kyle Mahannah

Originally founded by abolitionists and later planted to serve students, Community United Church of Christ is deeply rooted in the Christian social justice tradition. In 1970 three churches with long histories merged to form CUCC, which has now served Champaign-Urbana for over 161 years.

In fact, the original rules of the First Congregational Church of Christ, established in 1853, barred anyone who "perpetuates or sustains the system of American Slavery" from becoming a member. On June 23, 1856, Abraham Lincoln spoke in the unfinished church building in support of presidential candidate John C. Fremont, the first candidate of the newly formed Republican Party, which opposed the spread of slavery into the West.

The church also has long connections with the University of Illinois. On July 15, 1917, the church voted to sell its building at State and Church in downtown Champaign and move to campus to better serve the faculty and students. The cornerstone of the building at 6th and Daniel was laid in 1919. Except during the Great Depression, the church has supported a formal student ministry ever since.

our history

The church, its ministers, and members have always been involved in social justice and mission work:

- In the **1970s** and **80s** the congregation sponsored refugee families from Vietnam.
- In **1979** the church was part of a new men's shelter that rotated among several churches. Our church members continue to actively support care of people experiencing homelessness in our community through C-U at Home, the UP Center's work with homeless LGBTQ+ kids, and our own Jubilee Café.
- In **1987** a renovation added a new wing and an elevator, making the main and lower levels of the building accessible. We use the elevator on Sundays, as do community groups, along with guests and volunteers at Jubilee Café.
- In **1995** the church membership voted to become an Open and Affirming church. We promised to love, affirm, and support all persons, including people who identify as lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender.

Now we need to maintain and repair our building for the next century and a half of service.

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING SOME BIG ANNIVERSARIES SOON!

- **10th anniversary of Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser's pastorate at CUCC on December 8, 2019.**
- **25th anniversary of our covenant as an Open and Affirming congregation on February 2, 2020.**
- **100th anniversary of our building on Transfiguration Sunday, February 23, 2020.**

deeply rooted, a future with **HOPE**

our mission

We seek to serve and worship God in our beliefs, lives, and community.

When we do that, the branches of Community UCC extend their shade out into the community.

Every Monday evening, college students and other neighbors struggling with food insecurity sit down together for a restaurant-style farm-to-table dinner at Jubilee Café. Volunteer servers offer guests more than choices of entrées and sides—they offer genuine human connection and care.

UCC Campus Ministry at CUCC provides a welcoming environment for students at the University of Illinois and Parkland to explore questions of life and faith, to grow as people, live as a community, and experience fellowship. Students eat and volunteer with Jubilee Café, enjoy Sunday lunches with CUCC members, are “adopted” by CUCC families, participate in Bible study, retreats, and other events, and experience mission trips over spring break.

Next year is the 25th anniversary of our covenant as an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome LGBTQ+ persons into the full life and leadership of our congregation. We celebrate same-sex weddings and transgender name blessings in our worship services. We march at Pride, we teach LGBTQ+ youth that they are loved by God and by God’s people, and we work for a more accepting and equal world.

By our very presence in Champaign-Urbana, CUCC continues to be a symbol of hope for the greater community, and has become a refuge for those working hard to create a better, more just, world.

I like what the church stands for. We've always worked with college students and I always thought that was important.
— Martha Seif



The capital campaign will support a number of repairs and enhancements to our building.

ROOF REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR

- Replace roofs on parlor, tower, and roof east of the tower
- Repairs to the tile roof and the asphalt roof over the office

BRICK AND CONCRETE REPAIR

- Tuck pointing, brick and joint sealing
- Front entry wall repair
- Lintel restoration
- Repair or replace exterior stairs
- Repairs to 510 Daniel chimney

WOOD WINDOWS

- Replace or restore sills, re-caulk, repaint

ELEVATOR OVERHAUL

- Replacement of controller, door systems, hall fixtures, and positioning systems

PAINTING

- Repair damaged plaster on walls and ceilings
- Paint entire sanctuary
- Paint selected areas of parlor, old entryway, library, Daniel Street alcove

PARKING LOT

- Grind down entire lot and overlay 2 inches of new asphalt
- Repairs around drain

PROJECTOR IN SANCTUARY

- Wireless HDMI projector to be wall-mounted on the lectern side
- TV mounted in choir loft

PARLOR UPGRADES

- New carpet and furnishings

These projects are estimated to cost around \$500,000.



We are one of the beacons of progressive Christianity on campus.
— John Murphy

our needs & scope of project



COMMITMENT TO ONGOING STEWARDSHIP

The timing of this campaign means you will be asked for two gifts: one for the Deeply Rooted capital campaign and one for the annual stewardship campaign that provides our annual operating expenses to carry out our ministries and missions. Gifts to the Deeply Rooted campaign can be made over a three-year period, on a schedule that works for you.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your participation in these two campaigns. Increasing your annual stewardship gift by 1% of household income, and contributing 3% of income each year of the Deeply Rooted capital campaign, will ensure that Community United Church of Christ continues to work for a more just world, and welcome everyone to our building. Gifts of appreciated stock and other assets are welcome, as well as cash gifts.

Supporting the Deeply Rooted and annual stewardship campaigns is an opportunity to come together to take care of our building and grounds so that we can share the fruits of our faith with each other and the world.

C. U. C. C. was the first place we felt comfortable as a family. I was married there, was a moderator, and I believe that supporting it from afar is important.

— Michelle Franke

DEEPLY ROOTED CAMPAIGN DETERMINATION TABLE

Household Income	3%	3 Year Pledge	Monthly	Weekly
\$10,000.00	\$300.00	\$900.00	\$25.00	\$5.77
\$20,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,800.00	\$50.00	\$3.95
\$30,000.00	\$900.00	\$2,700.00	\$75.00	\$17.31
\$40,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,600.00	\$100.00	\$23.08
\$50,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$125.00	\$28.85
\$60,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$5,400.00	\$150.00	\$34.62
\$70,000.00	\$2,100.00	\$6,300.00	\$175.00	\$40.38
\$80,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$7,200.00	\$200.00	\$46.15
\$90,000.00	\$2,700.00	\$8,100.00	\$225.00	\$51.92
\$100,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$250.00	\$57.69

This table is for you to use when calculating your pledge.

our pledges

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP INCREASE DETERMINATION TABLE

Household Income	1%	Monthly	Weekly
\$10,000.00	\$100.00	\$8.33	\$1.92
\$20,000.00	\$200.00	\$16.66	\$3.85
\$30,000.00	\$300.00	\$25.00	\$5.77
\$40,000.00	\$400.00	\$33.33	\$7.69
\$50,000.00	\$500.00	\$41.66	\$9.62
\$60,000.00	\$600.00	\$50.00	\$11.54
\$70,000.00	\$700.00	\$58.33	\$13.46
\$80,000.00	\$800.00	\$66.66	\$15.38
\$90,000.00	\$900.00	\$75.00	\$17.31
\$100,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$83.33	\$19.23

This table is for you to use when calculating your pledge.



We are in an energetic, forward-leaning moment.

— Jon Ebel

DEEPLY ROOTED CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBERS

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the local mission projects in which our church is involved?

In addition to our own Jubilee Café, assembling hygiene kits, and being the largest donor to UCC Campus Ministry, CUCC supports the work of Canteen Run monthly, and regularly partners with the UP Center of Champaign County, C-U at Home, and the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County.

We also put together school kits and emergency buckets for Church World Service every year.

CUCC partners with UCC Campus Ministry to host an annual lecture on faith and LGBTQ concerns. In 2020, Queering Faith will be in its third year.

2. How is our church building being used by community groups?

Our building offers a convenient, central meeting place. Currently our church hosts three weekly AA fellowships, one international friendship group, and starting this fall, three English as a second language classes.

3. How is CUCC contributing to the future of progressive Christianity?

In the past four years, our church has had four seminary graduates, and we have one person currently in seminary with an additional member in discernment on the commissioned minister path.

Those seminary graduates have produced two local church pastors, Eileen Gebbie and Colie Bettavia, a church planter, Cyndy Ash, and a hospital chaplain, Chad O'Neill.

4. We often talk of our church as a launchpad. What does that mean?

Because Champaign-Urbana's population is frequently in transition, CUCC often sees equal numbers of members join and move on from the church, and we actively work to find new church homes for people who leave our congregation.

5. What's being done in the Jack A. Good Library?

We are setting up the new John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith, which will provide a library of books on spirituality. Over time, this will become a resource center for the congregation (and perhaps the community), with experiential learning through classes, groups and retreats enlarging our possibilities for adult education and faith formation.

6. How much of our budget supports mission through the Our Church's Wider Mission and other UCC mission programs?

About 9% of our annual budget goes to local and national mission work. In addition, the congregation contributes to four special mission offerings a year, we often make additional gifts from reserve funds, and

our pastor dedicates a portion of her weekly work to mission. This brings the portion of our budget allotted for mission to 21%.

7. How is our annual budget developed?

Each fall our ministry team leaders and staff examine the stewardship of their resources over the past year and submit proposed budgets in keeping with their goals. In December, with pledges in hand for the coming year and budget narratives from our church leaders, with the help of the financial resources manager, the CLB meets to make final recommendations.

We have a longstanding commitment to propose a balanced budget. In recent years we have intentionally allocated money from reserves to balance our budget without making drastic cuts. This is why we are encouraging congregants to increase their annual stewarding pledge by 1% of their annual household income.

8. Besides the pledges of our members, what other sources of income does our church have?

We receive income from investments, occasional and regular use of our building, use of our parking lot, rental of 510 Daniel, and fundraising.

9. How may I contribute to these two campaigns?

You will be given a pledge card that features a place to give to both the annual stewardship campaign and the Deeply Rooted Capital Campaign. You may also make your pledge online. Handing in a pledge card that states you have pledged online will be helpful to our financial secretary.

Gifts of appreciated stock and other assets are welcome, as well as cash gifts. Transferring stock to the church can produce huge tax savings. The Finance Team has details.

10. What are the plans for paying our pledges and when does the pay period start?

The Deeply Rooted Capital Campaign runs for three years with pledge payments starting January 1, 2020 and running through 2022, or before. Once we have pledge cards in hand this fall, we will use those as collateral for a loan to cover the total cost of the building improvements. We'll then pay back that loan as people make payments on those pledges. However, if some members are able to prepay a portion of their pledges up front, those amounts will be applied to their pledges and used to pay for the proposed projects, which will reduce the amount of borrowing and any eventual mortgage needed. Although the Deeply Rooted Capital Campaign runs for three years, anything you can pay up front is helpful because of the loan we voted to take from ourselves for down payment on elevator repairs.

11. Can I include CUCC in my will?

Absolutely. Please indicate on your pledge card that you would like to speak to someone about doing this.



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