



March 12, 2020

Dear Community,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus the Christ. Blessings, y'all – I hope you're being gentle with yourselves these days. Earlier today, a group of church leaders gathered to make some contingency plans based on the recommendations from Public Health of Champaign County in order to help mitigate the spread of and contain Covid-19. Public Health has asked faith communities to follow specific guidelines through May 15 – be advised, these may change. And while these guidelines mean big changes for us, we are a Community that is able to adapt rather well. We pivot with ease often. Here's our chance to put those skills into practice. We will adhere to Public Health's guidelines, while also increasing our connections and community support.

Worship:

- Psalm 66 reminds us that "all the earth worships God" but Public Health advises us that we have to do that in groups of 50 people or less. And, people 60 or older are strongly advised to not attend at all.
- We are suspending in person worship. We will email you a bulletin each week (check the weekly email and the CUCC Facebook page). You can join worship via
 - o Phone (call 1-314-666-2560, use PIN: 297 935 398#)
 - o Facebook live (simply go to the CUCC Facebook page at worship time and watch), or
 - o Google meeting (use <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/52f4864a-9d57-472f-a06f-4a163933e532> or <https://meet.google.com/fsf-ksfh-sab>)
 - o Be patient with us. We will do our best on Sunday and make improvements as we go.
- Worship will be uploaded to our Youtube channel and the link will be emailed to you each Monday. Again, we suspect our first streaming service will have some glitches. If that happens, no worries, you can worship with the full video on Monday.
- Thanks to our office and music staff, as well as Campus Minister Rev. Nate Brantingham, and the sound team for making this happen. We will adapt worship as we move forward and get the hang of virtual church.

Jubilee Café:

- Jesus said, "Feed my sheep," and we will continue to do this in new ways. Jubilee Cafe will provide carry out meals only beginning Monday.
- Volunteers are still needed and we are adapting our volunteer guidelines appropriately. See the Jubilee Café CUCC Facebook page and <https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer>

Twice weekly church video/phone conference:

- In Acts 2:46, we read that the early church gathered together to break bread in homes. We will virtually gather twice weekly, via video/phone conference, Tuesdays at 6 pm and Thursdays at noon. Join either or both of those gatherings for conversation and inspiration.
 - o Tuesdays at 6 pm: Join by video (meet.google.com/ghk-fcrp-rau) or by phone (call 1-570-719-2024, use PIN: 298 014 991#)
 - o Thursdays at 12 noon: Join by video (meet.google.com/sef-dvrc-hwc) or by phone (call 1-929-276-1194, use PIN: 234 355 875#)



Community Clusters:

- We are called to love our neighbors. We are mapping where all of our members and regular attenders live so that we can group folks in clusters geographically. Next week, we'll send information out so that you know who is in your cluster – we want you to know your CUCC neighbors. Check in with one another. Help one another.

Caring for One Another:

- Throughout our sacred stories, we are reminded to care for the vulnerable. We need folks who are willing to volunteer AND people who are willing to ask for help when they need it.
 - o If you are at risk, need to self-isolate, and need someone to bring you groceries or prescriptions, please contact Pastor Leah (217-552-3129). We have volunteers who will run those errands for you.
 - o If you would like to volunteer, contact Peg Wade (217-352-4927).
 - o "At-home" members are being contacted by Commissioned Minister for Health, Faith Community Nurse Linda Morgan.
- We are revamping CUCC's "Emergency Callers" system – our unique version of a phone tree – to be able to share information and check on one another. Each household has been assigned to a CUCCer on the Emergency Callers team.
- Small groups are still encouraged to meet in our building. Music Director Kathy Lee is working on how choir might continue to be together during this time while still following protocol. Yes, Pub Theology – meet! The following guidelines apply to CUCC groups as well as community groups which use our space:
 - o Groups of 50 or less may gather.
 - o People 60 and older are strongly advised to stay home. For your own health – stay home, please. Use technology to include at home group members. Use phones, or video meet ups. Don't cut yourself off from community!
 - o Each group that gathers in the building will station a greeter at the door who ensures each entrant sanitizes/washes their hands. No one who is ill is allowed to enter.
 - o You may bring in your own beverage in a lidded container. Snacks and potlucks aren't allowed. Employees are allowed to bring lunches to work.
 - o Individuals are encouraged to remain 3 feet apart.
 - o Your group must keep a written list of who attended each meeting/gathering. CUCC groups must email those to Office Manager Carla Rush (info@community-ucc.org). In the case that someone in your group tests positive for COVID -19, keeping written records of who was in attendance when makes it possible to contain the virus more quickly.
 - o Your group must wipe down surfaces used with disinfectant.
 - o We are sending these new building usage guidelines to all our groups. Our cleaning service was here today to sanitize the building and will continue to do so on Thursdays.

Lastly, if you are feeling ill, please, stay home. If you test positive for COVID-19, please let Pastor Leah know so that we can care for you. Also, let Public Health know so that we can care for our greater CU Community by containing the spread. Champaign Public Health has set up a Coronavirus Hotline at 217-239-7877. Friends, these are big changes, but not insurmountable ones. Let this not be a reason to separate, but an opportunity to come together and Be The Church in profound and life-giving ways.

Blessings....Pastor Leah



March 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

These are challenging times involving changes and adaptations for all of us. I know that we will all experience the implementation of these new policies as a loss. We are Community United Church of Christ. We love community. But it is precisely because we love community and love the individuals that make up our community that we have to turn back the clock to the days of the ancient church and follow a dispersed but devoted model; we will be dispersed spatially, not spiritually; we will be devoted to each other, to the Divine, and to the spirit of Jesus. Let's also be deeply grateful that we have Pastor Leah to guide us and to unite us, and that one day very, very soon, we will gather and worship again in the building that is our home.

Warm wishes,
Jon Ebel,
Moderator