



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

Volume 59, Issue 9 - September 1 - 30, 2020

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

## e-Communigram

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### Letter from Leah

The people of the Exodus journey started complaining after 3 days in the wilderness. Three days.

Yes, we've discussed this before – it seems relevant in new ways in these pandemic days.

Complaint can be seen in one way, as a lack of positivity. Positivity has its own critics. I'd encourage us to view their complaint differently: as just the tip of the iceberg. Complaint is, usually, the presenting issue. Cloaked under the surface we find a confounding mix of internal and external issue folks are trying to navigate. This was true of the people wandering (and wondering....and worrying) in the wilderness away from slavery, forming community, traveling on toward a new land and home. This is also true of today's people wandering (and wondering....and worrying) in the wilderness of a mismanaged pandemic, amid an apocalypse, meaning simply "uncovering", of how very broken our economic and health care systems are. The effects of and livelihood of America's original sin, racism, is also part of this apocalypse. People's racism is being uncovered in traumatizing ways.

I try to keep this in mind when I hear people complain, when folks are irritable, when anger suddenly flashes out of seemingly nowhere. Complaint is just the presenting emotion. What's under the surface is vast and complicated. It is beguiling. Many of you have talked with me this month about how you are feeling. You have articulated frustration, apprehension, fear, anxiety, grief, discomfort, sadness, a need to practice letting go, feeling trapped, loneliness, isolation, anticipation, uncertainty, and more. What are you feeling these days? Maybe write it down. It helps to name it, to see it on the page.

The people of the Exodus journey were 3 days in and all that was churning inside of them bubbled up and over as complaint. They had 14, 597 days to go before they would reach the land they had been promised, not that they knew that. They had no idea how long they would be wandering (and wondering....and worrying). Dear ones, we have no idea how long we will be wandering (and wondering....and worrying) in this wilderness of COVID and COVID restrictions, civil unrest, and economic collapse. As much as I would like to say that our promised land, whatever that is, is just around the corner, to do so would offer you false hope. And that's not my job. My job, as your pastor, is to offer you the framework of our faith in order to help make sense of, and find purpose amid, whatever we face in life. Our Christian faith does not promise that life will be easy. In fact, it pretty much affirms the opposite: life is hard and as followers of Christ, we live lives in practice of our faith. Out of that practice, we find peace amid hardship and chaos. Out of that practice, we commit to being a community. Out of that practice, we choose generosity over greed, and service over selfishness. Out of that practice, we continually turn away from our own selfish will, remembering that we are part of a bigger Body. This practice of our faith helps us to find a Way where there seems to be no way – like when we find ourselves wandering (and wondering....and worrying) through a seemingly endless world pandemic and American apocalypse. The Way through that is to get up every day and practice our faith.

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I hope that in the coming days, you will reach out to other people in our Community. Don't allow yourself to be isolated – check in on your neighbors. Encourage your children to be part of what Youth Ministry and Children and Family Ministry have planned for young people. Attend worship on Sunday mornings, and if you can't be part of virtual worship live, binge it later. Let's be honest: we all binge tv shows these days – what would happen if you binged worship? Those who are planning and participating in worship are working to make worship relevant, inspiring, and comforting in creative ways. Our ministry teams are also continuing to find new ways to do their work even when we cannot be physically together. How can you help? If you want to be of service, please be in touch with me. I will connect you if you need help doing that.

I am grateful to be in the wilderness with you, Community UCC. We're a fairly healthy church and we complain very little. Sorry, Moses....that must have been rough. Mostly, CUCCers, you pay attention to what's churning under the surface and find healthy ways to navigate that – keep it up and be incredibly gentle with yourselves. As Rev. Karen Bush always reminded me, "You're working harder than you know," and that sentiment holds true for ALL of us right now. You may find yourself sleeping more or lacking energy. Be a good steward of your body, please. You may also find yourself engaging in unhealthy behaviors, old ones you've reverted back to because of stress, or new ones you've picked up under duress. Please pay attention to that and ask for help when you need it. There's no shame in this. We're all doing the best we can. We are six months into who knows how many months of this wandering (and wondering....and worrying). The best we can do is pay attention to when we complain, look deeper to figure out what's really going on, and keep practicing our faith. It's the Way through.

Blessings,



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



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## A New Worship Series is Coming to CUCC!

As I've listened to you all talk about what you need, it seemed that we needed to focus on scripture that helped us make our way through this present wilderness and all of the myriad emotions that come with it. Pastor Connie and I have been making lists of those texts in preparation for a worship series for fall. Additionally, many of you have asked for a worship series that is in conversation with a book so that our Christian wisdom may have a conversation partner. I started wondering what book we could read that would address what it means to live in a world that is rapidly changing. Can we find a book that would be a helpful conversation partner as we seek to live life and live it abundantly in a world that is changing in ways which are anything other than abundant? How do you go about that kind of living in an intentional way?

That made me think of a book 'Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds' by Adrienne Maree Brown which I was gifted last fall when the Church Life Board sent CUCCers Anna Barnes, Roccio Jameson, Julie McClure, and me to the Collaborative Church conference at Land of the Sky UCC in Ashville, NC. Each registrant received their choice of three books. My colleague Rev. Sara Wilcox, who has been a church planter and is gifted at adapting to rapid change, handed me Emergent Strategy with the caveat, "You must read this."

At that conference, we learned about how to extend and enhance the mission of church by being in collaboration with community partners who share the same values that we do. We also learned that we already do this well at CUCC, and we have some significant growing edges. The pandemic hit about the same time I had hoped to nudge us towards new strategies in collaboration...sigh...someday. In the meantime, though, it seemed that the conversation partner we needed as a church for this moment in history was the book Sara shoved into my hands. I reached out to her, and CUCC's worship Team, about the idea of utilizing the principles set forth in Emergent Strategies as a framework for a worship series. CUCC and Land of the Sky UCC will be doing this worship series in tandem.

From September 13 through November 1, our worship will focus on shaping change amid a changing world. We will read scripture each week, mostly from the Gospel of Matthew, which focuses the practice of our faith as a strategy for not just navigating change but having abundant life throughout. This book, as a conversation partner invites us to "feel, map, assess, and

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learn from the swirling patterns around us in order to better understand and influence them as they happen.” Jesus did much of the same work with his disciples. It was not hard to find points of synergy with our Christian sacred texts.

Emergent Strategy is not a Christian book, but it is a sacred text, nonetheless, being rooted deeply in Afro-futurism and the work of Octavia Butler, along with African ancestral wisdom. As Christians, I believe we learn more about what we believe and how we practice our faith when we are in conversation with the richness that is wisdom beyond our own faith tradition. Note that this book has a section titled “spells”. For some, the term might trigger suspicion or be cause for concern, given that in some traditions the notion of spells is tied up with questions of evil, etc. For others, the term might be utterly neutral, not registering as especially sinister or, really, as anything much at all. For them, a spell might be analogous to a prayer or a poem or something like setting an intention or making a wish. Still others may be on the opposite end of the spectrum, for them "spell" might represent deep ties to a tradition where spells are a specific spiritual practice, not necessarily reducible to things like prayer, poetry, etc. I wanted to name this specifically, know that we are a vastly diverse church – I did not want this to be a hindrance. Thanks to the Pastoral Relations Team for talking through that and to Cara Finnegan for helping with the above framing.

Please order a copy of Emergent Strategy and begin reading (here’s a link to Amazon.com [https://www.amazon.com/s?k=emergent+strategy&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=emergent+strategy&ref=nb_sb_noss_1)). You will find within the first few pages that Brown suggests her book need not be read in order as written. I would encourage you to begin with the Assessment on page 183, then go back to the introduction. You need not read the book in the order with which it is engaged in worship. Pub Theology will be reading and discussing this book together. Their conversation will begin on September 21 or 28. There is a small group that started up with the Unraveled Series – keep going! If you’d like to be connected to a group of folks who are reading and discussing this book and aren’t sure how to, please let me know and I can connect you.

About worship – CLB will be making a decision about how worship will be conducted (in person, hybrid, or virtual) on September 15 for the remainder of September—November. Here’s what you have to look forward to in worship this fall:

#### WEEK 1

Date September 13, 2020  
Theme What is Emergent Strategy: Getting in Right Relation to Change  
Sacred Text Matthew 6:25-34  
Book Chapter Chapter 1, 2, 3: introduction/principles/elements

#### WEEK 2

Date September 20, 2020  
Theme “Look at your Thumb”: spirals, patterns, & the relationship between big picture/small things  
Sacred Text Matthew 14: 13-21  
Book Chapter Chapter 4: Fractals

#### WEEK 3

Date September 27, 2020 (This is also Pride Sunday in CU)  
Theme Mission: Possib(ilities)  
Sacred Text Matthew 10:1-16  
Book Chapter Chapter 5: Intentional Adaptation

#### WEEK 4

Date October 4, 2020 (This is also World Communion Sunday)  
Theme Being One Body: Interdependence and Decentralization  
Sacred Text I Corinthians 12: 12-27  
Book Chapter Chapter 6: Interdependence and decentralization

#### WEEK 5

Date October 11, 2020 (This is also Stewardship Sunday)  
Theme Cultivating Hope: The Pace and Pathways of Change  
Sacred Text TBA  
Book Chapter Chapter 7: Nonlinear and Iterative

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## WEEK 6

Date October 18, 2020  
Theme Be like butterflies: resilience and transformation  
Sacred Text Matthew 28:1-20  
Book Chapter Chapter 8: resilience

## WEEK 7

Date October 25, 2020  
Theme Shaping Tomorrow Towards Abundance  
Sacred Text Matthew 5:1-15  
Book Chapter Chapter 9: creating more possibilities

## WEEK 8

Date November 1, 2020 (Also All Saints Communion Sunday and in-Gathering of Pledges)  
Theme Coevolution: I am because you are, we are because they were  
Sacred Text Revelations 7:9-17 ? or, if focusing on "soma" -- Acts 9, Romans....?  
Book Chapter Chapter 12: spells and practices for emergent strategy

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## CU PRIDE FEST!

Champaign Urbana's Pride Fest is moving online this year. Please go to <https://www.unitingpride.org/pridefest2020> to see what is scheduled. Pastor Leah will be giving her Biblical Self-Defense Workshop on Sunday, September 27, 2020 1:30PM to 3:00PM. That workshop is followed by an interfaith panel which will be worth your time!

This year, for the first time ever, there will be an Interfaith Pride Worship Service, Tuesday, September 22, 7 pm, on Zoom and livestreamed to social media. This worship service is sandwiched between two Jewish holidays that are all about renewal and a return to a state of grace. T'shuvah is the opportunity for redemption that Jewish people ask for during the holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur -- we ask for it in a personal, spiritual, moral, and communal sense. This interfaith service is in the spirit of t'shuvah and will offer, from a myriad of faith traditions, words of renewal for the LGBTQ+ community, so that we might refreshed. What word of refreshment or renewal does your faith tradition have for LGBTQ+ folks? What word does a different faith tradition have for you? This event will be rich in content and diverse in participation. It is one not to miss. Please look on email and social media for the Zoom link.

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## #wearitdontshareit

You have probably heard this tag line frequently on local TV and radio these last few months. It is the tagline for the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District. We are saying it here at CUCC too as we strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask when going out in public, when meeting others, like a friend, perhaps a friend from church for a walk or a picnic.



Absolutely everyone coming into the church building must wear a mask, sanitize their hands, and keep six feet apart.

Wearing a face covering is a sign of love, love for ourselves and for our neighbors. Wearing a mask, social distancing by six feet, and staying home when we do not feel well is the only way to care for each other in this new normal we find ourselves living in.

Stay healthy, wash your hands often, wear your mask when going out in public, meeting others, and coming into the church building.

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## Moderator Musings

It's September. I'm ready for cooler weather. The magic of being warmed by the summer sun has, for me at least, pretty much worn off. I could use a few cooling breezes, some indirect sunlight, and that wonderful, fragrant fall air. I am ready for a change of seasons in other ways too. But as the weeks of returning students and beginning classes and the transformation of Champaign-Urbana from its sleepy summer state to a more vibrant fall have come, I have found myself not anxious or distracted or short-tempered (all possibilities), but very, very proud. Proud of the university for modeling a serious, science-based approach to the pandemic, proud of our church for its resilience and its lived commitment to the notions of kin-dom and beloved community, proud of our pastor for leading us through uncharted and frequently choppy waters. In short, I am proud that though the summer has found us learning and praying and thinking about unraveling, it has not seen us unravel as a community. We are not out of the woods yet, not by a long shot. There will be more unbearably hot days. There will be more bad news about the pandemic. But we can and should take a moment to reflect, and to be proud, of how we have traveled the road we have traveled so far.

As fall approaches, your church leadership is beginning to think about stewardship programs. As you begin thinking about the support you can pledge in the coming year, keep in mind that we the people are the church even though we are scattered. Yet for the work of the church to continue, for the pastor to continue providing pastoral support and leading worship every Sunday, for the church to remain active in the local community and beyond, the church needs us to be here for it.

Warm Regards,

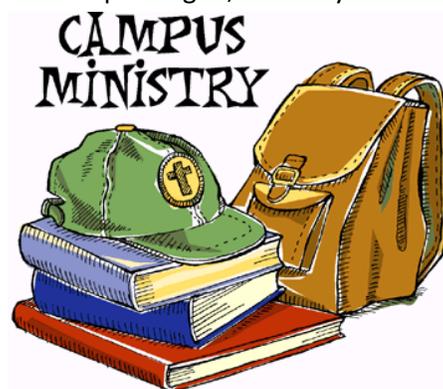
~Jon

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## Campus Ministry

Hello Community UCC! By the time you get this newsletter Campus Ministry will have officially begun our Fall programming! I know, I know, there is so much up in the air, but do you know what gives me certain knowledge that we will have a great year? It is that we have an amazing group of students already on board who are committed to making sure that this year is amazing in spite of Covid. They have already packed our campus ministry calendar full of amazing events like virtual board games, online hangouts, movie nights, service projects and more. We even have a tabletop role playing game group starting. But what will change is how you, as the congregation, can support our new and returning students. The programs of the past from "adopting" students to Sunday lunch will need to be changed or reimaged. We know we will work something out because we firmly believe that one of the greatest assets this program has is that the community at Community wraps these students up in love and makes them feel at home. We can still do that, it will probably be even more important than ever for our isolated students, it will just need to look a little different. There will still be opportunities as well to provide financial support, which I know is way more boring and less exciting than hands-on involvement, but it is germ free and empowers us to do these safe online programs and we literally couldn't do any of that without your help, so thank you! For those who still want the more hands on engagement, don't worry, there will be plenty of things we can do for that too, we just need to get creative. Speaking of, does anyone know how we can safely get this amazing group of students a bunch of home-made snacks for game night?

~ Rev. Nate Brantingham  
Director of Campus Ministry



## Ministry Opportunities at CUCC Volunteers Needed

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up	Article
Worship Team	Edit Videos	Office Admin	<a href="mailto:Info@community-ucc.org">Info@community-ucc.org</a>		
Worship Team	Technical Help	Office Admin	<a href="mailto:infor@community-ucc.org">infor@community-ucc.org</a>		
Worship Team	Liturgist	Chase Skye Susan Pawlicki	<a href="mailto:chaseskye7@gmail.com">chaseskye7@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgistseptemb">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgistseptemb</a>	
Worship Team	Greeter	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	<a href="mailto:chaseskye7@gmail.com">chaseskye7@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greetersseptembe">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greetersseptembe</a>	
Worship Team	Hymn Leaders & Other Music for Worship	Music Director Musician	<a href="mailto:music@community-ucc.org">music@community-ucc.org</a> <a href="mailto:bclark87@gmail.com">bclark87@gmail.com</a>	<a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VRO-hpyuH5Exip52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HZxzhefK7nlass/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VRO-hpyuH5Exip52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HZxzhefK7nlass/edit?usp=sharing</a>	
Prayer Team	Team Member	Office Admin	<a href="mailto:Info@community-ucc.org">Info@community-ucc.org</a>		
Children's Ministry	Event Planner/Leader	Julie McClure	<a href="mailto:jemclure4@gmail.com">jemclure4@gmail.com</a>		<a href="#">Page 12</a>
Jubilee Café	Meal Prep, Cook, Clean-up	Johnell Bentz	<a href="mailto:johnell.bentz@gmail.com">johnell.bentz@gmail.com</a>	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer">https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer</a>	<a href="#">Page 8</a>
Grounds Team	Lawn Mowing	Matthew Hart	<a href="mailto:matthewlorenhart@gmail.com">matthewlorenhart@gmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5AF2CA1FB6-community">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5AF2CA1FB6-community</a>	



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## Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!  
 Tuesday, September 1 -- Wednesday, September 30



Thursday, September 3, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 5, 4:00pm – 7:00pm: CUCC Welcomes Students Back to Campus with Hot Dog Dinner (canceled)

Saturday, September 5, 4:30pm – 7:00pm: Individuals Together Picnic in the Park at Ambucs Park

Sunday, September 13, 10:15am: Breakout Room during worship for Youth PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade

Sunday, September 13, 1:30pm: Youth Group Meeting by Zoom

Tuesday, September 15, 11:30am: Monthly Retirees' Luncheon, Picnic in the Park at Hessel Park

Tuesday, September 15, 6:30pm: Church Life Board Meeting,

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/815146054?pwd=UmMwdW01ZFVmV0hpZmxrRWNIUmhwdz09>

Meeting ID: 815 146 054

Password: 697698

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Sunday, September 20, 10:15am: Breakout Room during worship for Youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

Monday, September 21, 9:00am Articles Due for October eCommunigram

Tuesday, September 22, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Canteen Run, Kitchen

Sunday, September 27, 1:30pm-3:00pm: Pastor Leah leading Biblical Self-Defense for Pride

Fest 2020 Online. Registration required at <https://forms.gle/DUX7Ya5w4LFiBgQP9>



See the chart below for re-occurring events and Zoom meeting information. Be sure to check the CUCC Facebook page for updates.

## Weekly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC

Event	Day	Time	Meeting ID	Passcode	Dates	Join Zoom Meeting	Dial by Your Location
Worship	Sun	10:15AM	391 847 803	788969	7/5-12/27	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09">https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Pub Theology	Mon	7:00PM	954 5707 0801	902078		<a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/95457070801?pwd=WmlBN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/95457070801?pwd=WmlBN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
CUCC Community Drop-In Hour	Thu	12PM (Noon)	947 196 457	735760	7/9-12/31	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/947196457">https://zoom.us/j/947196457</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

The Tuesday Planning Drop-In Hour, Tuesday CUCC Community Drop-In Hour, the Wednesday CUCC Kids Chat Room, and the Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) are going on hiatus for September. Be sure to check the October eCommunigram for updates.

## Monthly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC

Men's Breakfast	Monthly 1st Thu	7:00AM	989 7544 0361	328404	7/2-12/3	<a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/98975440361?pwd=UDlyMXFKU3ozVmN2M0tUL1ZJehVUT09">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/98975440361?pwd=UDlyMXFKU3ozVmN2M0tUL1ZJehVUT09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
CUCC Retirees' Luncheon	Monthly 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	11:30AM	935 3696 7862	103227	8/2-12/3	<a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTvIV29oZz09">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTvIV29oZz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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## Jubilee Café

To follow social distancing rules, we have cut the number of volunteers. We have been fortunate to have a steady group of volunteers, but there are occasional openings.

### IMPORTANT COVID-19 INFORMATION:

- If you have recently been around large groups (classes, social events, protests, etc.) please delay volunteering at Jubilee Cafe until you know you do not have COVID-19.
- If you have not consistently worn a mask in public, please **DO NOT** sign up to volunteer at Jubilee Cafe.

If you are healthy and under age 60, please sign up to volunteer here: <https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer> Other volunteer opportunities exist as well. Please contact Johnell Bentz, [johnell.bentz@gmail.com](mailto:johnell.bentz@gmail.com), for more information.  
~Johnell Bentz

Date	Austin's Place (Women's Shelter)	DREEM Driven to Reach Excellence & Academic Achievement for Males	Hot Meals & Heat at Home	Total Meals
8/3/2020	0	0	27	<b>27</b>
8/10/2020	0	0	30	<b>30</b>
8/17/2020	0	0	70	<b>70</b>
8/24/2020	0	0	53	<b>53</b>
8/31/2020	0	0	56	<b>56</b>
<b>Total Meals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>236</b>

### Common Ground Food Coop's Round Up For Good 2021 Program



It's time to vote for your favorite organizations in **Common Ground Food Coop's Round Up For Good 2021 Program**.

**Jubilee Cafe** is one of the organizations on the ballot. If you are a current member of Common Ground Food Coop, go vote for Jubilee Cafe and your other 10 favorite organizations.

From the Coop Newsletter:

**This year we asked Round Up nominees to fill out a short proposal form, outlining future projects that Round Up would fund. We have compiled these proposals for our owners. Don't forget, elections start September 10th until September 17th. Be sure to read the proposals before you vote: <https://www.commonground.coop/get-the-scoop/blog/local-organization-their-project-proposals-2021-round-good-grant>**

### Jubilee Farms – Jubilee Café Partner in Seeking Volunteers

Jubilee Farms is located south of Clinton, IL on five acres on a rolling hillside. Cyndy Ash is the owner and operator and writes we really can put anyone to use. The best days to volunteer are Monday, Tuesday, and Sundays after 10:30. The most common volunteer task is by far weeding, nobody's favorite but it never stops on an organic farm. Our perennial pollinator beds have almost been completely lost to weeds this season. They desperately need attention.

There are lots of other things to do for those with additional skill sets or with more time. Our hoop houses need repairs, the greenhouse needs power washed and organized, one of the chicken coops needs power washed and repainted as well as floor repairs, we need drainage tile dug and installed around a coop, etc.



© dero \* www.ClipartOf.com/38561

Contact Cyndy at 217-621-4068 or email her at [cashswimming@gmail.com](mailto:cashswimming@gmail.com). Find more information about Jubilee Farms at <http://jubileefarmsclinton.com/who-we-are>  
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## Pub Theology



The book discussion group we call **Pub Theology** is finishing their discussion of the book *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

Beginning on September 21 or 28 the group will begin a discussion of *Emergent Strategy* the same book that will be used as the basis of the worship series running from September 13 – November 1.

Pub Theology meets at 7:15pm Mondays. Find Pub Theology Zoom [here](#).

If you would like to be added to the Pub Theology mailing list, email Tom Ward at [wardt508@comcast.net](mailto:wardt508@comcast.net) and he will add you to the list. Anyone is free to join us.

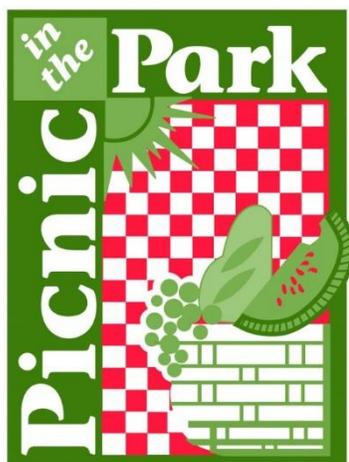
~Tom Ward

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## Community Building & Hospitality Team

### CUCC Retirees Lunch Group

The CUCC Retirees had 12 participants at their monthly zoom lunch on August 18th. Next month, the group plans to have a picnic in the park. We will meet at Hessel Park (more details later of exact location) on Tuesday, September 15th at 11:30 a.m. to lunch together. We will sit in a circle, 6 feet apart to social distance and wear masks until we eat. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a lawn chair and their lunch. Join us for lunch, conversation, laughs and friendship!



Mark **Tuesday, September 15, 11:30 a.m.** on your calendars (anyone is welcome to join us). More details about location to meet at Hessel Park to come.

~ Peg Wade & Randy Musser

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## CUCC Cookbook News

"Keep Calm and Cook On" is the title selected for our next CUCC Cookbook. Congratulations to Alison Anders for submitting the winning title. Also thank you to our Cookbook Title Selection Committee: Anna Barnes, Curt Nesler, Pat McQuillen, Martha Seif and Sean Walker. We appreciate your thoughtful review of all 20 title suggestions, and we feel you made an excellent choice from so many creative titles.



We are still in the production stage for the cookbook but hope to have them ready for distribution by the end of September. Stay tuned!

-Randy & Peg

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## Individuals Together

Individuals Together, CUCC's social group for people who live alone for ANY reason, will be meeting on **Saturday, September 5, 2020**. We are looking forward to a "Picnic in the Park" at Ambucs Park in Urbana from 4:30 PM to 7 PM. Please bring a lawn chair (in case a pavilion is not available), your own dinner and drink, and of course, your MASK!

In order to keep each other safe we will follow CDC guidelines to observe social distancing and will wear a mask at all times (except when eating of course).

There is even a game being planned that will also observe social distancing!! Hope to see you there! Call Linda Morgan at 649-3778 with any questions.

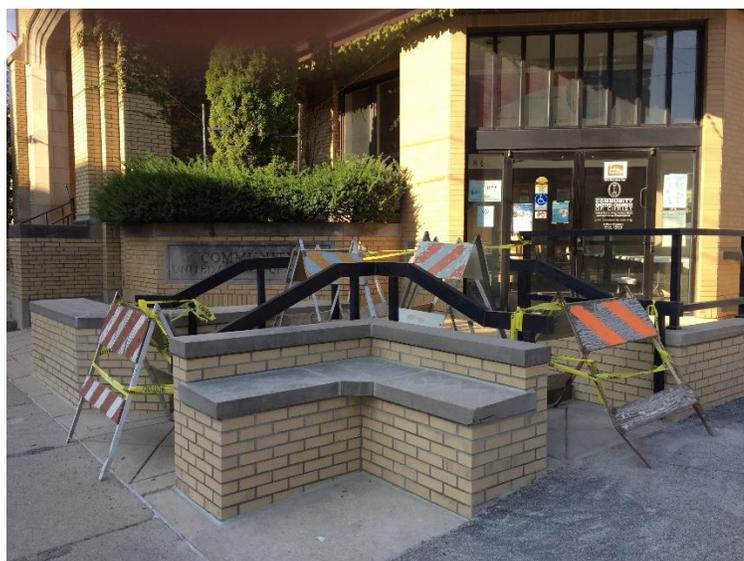
~ Linda Morgan



## Construction Update

There has been lots of activity outside the church this past month!

- The masons have spent a significant amount of time working on tuck pointing on all sides of the church. They used a 4-story lift (see photo attached) to reach up to different sides of the tower and main building.
- The walls by the main entrance were dismantled and rebuilt
- The concrete steps by the main entrance were demolished and replaced
- The limestone steps by the parking lot entrance were pulled out and new limestone has been ordered
- The water-filled glass bricks by the parking lot were replaced with “real” bricks
- The steel lintels above many of the windows and entrances were pulled out and replaced
- Over at 510 Daniel, the crumbling back stoop was demolished and replaced, and the front door and surrounding trim were painted
- Some of the tile has been removed from the roof over the sanctuary so a new high temperature ice and water shield can be installed along with new copper flashing
- The cache of tile in the boiler room is being hauled out to be used as replacement tiles on the roof as needed



Attractions coming soon include:

- More roofing! This includes new roofing on the southwest corner and maintenance updates over the office on the north side.
- Fixing a collapsed window well at 510 Daniel
- Starting to think about paint colors for the sanctuary painting
- More deliberation on the parking lot

~Grant Robbenolt

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## Children and Family Ministry

Attention CUCC families with kids and youth!

We are going to try doing some break out rooms in Zoom for worship this month, where your kids will leave the main service for a short period of time to do an age appropriate activity with Julie or Jessica. In September, we are going to try this with **PreK-5th** on **September 13th** and **6th-12th grade** on **September 20th**.



Here's what you need to know:

- Youth and children will need to have their own device (laptop, tablet, phone) that has Zoom enabled and their name appearing on the screen. If there are siblings in the same age group, they can attend on different devices or share one.
- At a designated time in worship, children or youth will be asked to use one of the reaction buttons (thumbs up, heart, applause) to request to go to the breakout room. The host will then invite the child or youth to the room. **Just like when we're in the building, kids/youth aren't obligated to go. It's their choice!**
- The child or youth would then need to click the "join" button to enter the breakout room.
- After the activity ends, the leader will ask them to leave the breakout room, and they will automatically rejoin the service (and will be automatically muted).

We understand that this activity will require multiple devices at once in a home. If you don't have access to multiple devices and wish to participate in this activity, please reach out to Pastor Leah for assistance.

In the coming weeks we will be distributing Faith Talk Packs to families for use at home. Watch for more information from Julie.

~Julie McClure

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## Youth Group

Hi CUCC,

The youth took a little break in August and we are going to resume activities in September. We will have youth group by Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on **September 13th**. We are also going to have a youth **breakout room** in Zoom on **September 20th** during worship for youth 6th-12th grade.

If you have a child that is an incoming sixth grader or a student in 7th-12th grade that is new to CUCC, I invite you to send me your email address so I can keep you up to date on youth activities. If you have any questions, you can reach me at [jessica@community-ucc.org](mailto:jessica@community-ucc.org) or by phone (email/text) at 217-552-8063.

I'm looking forward to seeing the youth again soon!

Take care,  
~ Jessica Smiley

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## Outdoor Ministries Needs Your Support

Dear Friends,

As 2019 ended and we **approached the new year**, Pilgrim Park and Tower Hill were ready to open their doors and hearts to provide their guests a special place for relief from the busyness of life, a special place where God's presence is obvious, **providing moments full of life**, of joy, of hope, and of warmth.

But... **2020 has been an exceptional year** and unfortunately not in a positive way. In March we foresaw a stoppage of planned events and tasked ourselves on how we could bridge the gap in our fiscal budget. We responded by cutting back on staff, watching every penny, even offering our facilities to families for vacation rentals in safe and practical ways. This change in direction to bring in cash flow has been effective but is still **far short of the anticipated funds**.

**Today we are asking you** for an investment in our youth, that these camps will be here tomorrow. Give a potential camper the chance to hear God's voice, to hear it in the wind, the waves of Lake Michigan or the babble of the creek, and in the laughter of other campers. You can **connect a child** to a camp experience and a different life to bring them **"out of the ordinary and into the Sacred"**.

We have sincerely appreciated your support in the past and prayerfully anticipate your continued support.

Reverend Tracy Heilman, Site Manager, **Tower Hill Camp & Retreat Center**

Mitch Kloster, Site Manager, **Pilgrim Park Camp & Conference Center**

You can donate directly online at these links:

<https://outdoorministries.campbraingiving.com/>

<https://towerhill.campbraingiving.com/>

<https://pilgrimpark.campbraingiving.com/>

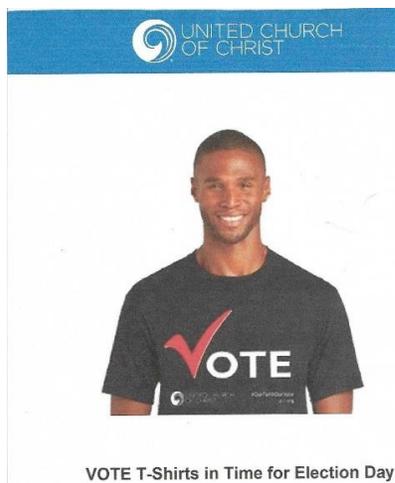
Again.... we appreciated your support and **prayerfully hope you support** this fund-raising event.

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## Our Faith Our Vote – T-Shirts and Yard Signs

From the email: Be the Church with UCC yard signs, including the new VOTE and A Just World for All. Black Lives Matter and Be a Blessing signs are also available. Election Day is just around the corner! Remind others to participate in democracy and exercise our right to vote with these new Vote t-shirts. VOTE face masks also available. Shirts and signs feature UCC logo and #OurFaithOurVote hashtag. T-shirts available in sizes Small - 3XL; shipping September 17. Make purchases at this website:

<https://www.uccresources.com/collections/vote>



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## 2020 Census – It's Not Too Late to Be Counted



The 2020 Census counts everyone living in the United States and its five territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

One person should respond for each home. That person must be at least 15 years old. They should live in the home or place of residence themselves and know general information about each person living there.

The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—who we are, where we live, and so much more. The results of this once-a-decade count determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. They are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location.

Please complete your form online, by phone, or by mail when your invitation to respond arrives. Visit [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to begin.

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## Champaign County Needs Election Judges

Judges of election are responsible for the administration of election procedures in the polling place on election day. They are in the position of ensuring that the election process is administered fairly and in accordance with our laws.

Contact the County Clerk's Office by phone or email and express your interest in serving as a Judge of Election. Election judges are vital to the conduct of efficient and honest elections to which voters are entitled.



Call the County Clerk's Office at (217) 384-3724.

Email the County Clerk's Office at [mail@champaigncountyclerk.com](mailto:mail@champaigncountyclerk.com)

Visit the [www.champaigncountyclerk.com](http://www.champaigncountyclerk.com) webpage for more information if interested in applying for this position, which is a paid position.

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## CUCC Office Hours

Just a reminder that the CUCC church office and building remain closed currently. However, I continue to work Monday through Wednesday 9AM – 3PM from home. I am checking both email and voice messages throughout those hours. On Thursday, I work from the CUCC office from 9AM – 3PM. If I can help you with anything your ministry is working on, please do not hesitate to be in touch.  
~ Carla Rush, Office Admin



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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