



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Volume 59, Issue 11 - November 1 - 30, 2020

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

e-Communigram

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Announcements from the Moderator

Worship

At our October meeting, the CLB once again discussed plans for worship in the coming months and decided that we should continue to worship remotely at least through January. We are committed to making worship as safe, equitable, and accessible as we possibly can. If you are encountering problems joining the remote worship services, please let me know. And thank you for the many ways that you support remote worship and the work of our church.

Annual Meeting

Just a reminder, we will be holding the annual meeting of the church remotely in January. CLB is making plans to host the meeting using Zoom and will do all that we can to maximize participation. You will be able to access the meeting via the internet or phone. If you have any concerns about connecting to the meeting, please let me know.

~ CUCC Moderator Jon Ebel, jebel@illinois.edu

Letters from Leah

November: A Month for Gratitude and Grief

Every November, we talk about gratitude and what it means to be thankful. As the light wanes and we turn our attention towards the Thanksgiving holiday, it's a natural time to count our blessings. We have so much for which to be grateful, even amid the challenge and heartache of this most unexpected year. The practice of gratitude is one of the saving graces in my life. I hope you'll make space for intentional gratitude this month.

This year, though, I hope you will also make an intentional space in your life for grief. Even as you lean into your gratitude, there is grief afloat in our world unlike any grief we have known before. That grief cannot be ignored – it should not be ignored.

Imagine with me, if you will, the ringing of the singing bowl. Imagine it chiming, reverberating through the space in which you sit.

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If we were to sound the chime for every person in the world who has died from COVID we would need to ring that bell 1,132,668 times as of the writing of this article. Friends, our brains aren't wired to conceive of numbers that large. Imagine that each time we ring the bell it sounds for four seconds. 1....2....3....4.... It would take us nearly 52 and a half days of continual ringing to honor each life. That means if we started at midnight on All Saints Sunday morning and rang continuously holding vigil, the last tone would be silent on the eve of Christmas Eve. Each tone strains in the ear -- it acknowledges, but cannot fully acknowledge, the person it represents, the entire beloved human being - made in God's image - who is no longer alive on this earth. Too many lives have been lost too soon to this awful pandemic. The scale of loss is almost impossible to fathom. Its magnitude breaks our hearts apart.

As we prepare to observe All Saints Day, my heart is heavy thinking about those we've loved and lost this past year, some from COVID, of course, but also others who died for all the other reasons we humans die. I'm sure every person reading this has loved and lost someone this year. Even if you haven't, I am certain you've loved and lost *something* this year - there's plenty to grieve. We've had to give up our regular everyday routines, contact with our loved ones. Grandbabies and great grandbabies have arrived and maybe we haven't been able to meet them yet. We've laid loved ones to rest and we've not been able to hold one another in our grief. We have elders who are shut up in care facilities who have been isolated for over seven months now. We've lost jobs, homes, dreams for the future, long-anticipated trips, weddings, celebrations, graduations, and more. As we enter the holiday season, many of us are actively pre-grieving our family holiday gatherings and traditions, which will look different this year. This will be only the second time in my life I will not be waking up in my childhood home on Thanksgiving morning - and while we are making decisions for new traditions to begin, or at least fill in in this interim time created by the pandemic, every loss compounds on top of the others and some days it feels like a major triumph just to get out of bed. Some days we don't even make it that far.

Beloveds, if you've not yet taken time to sit with the grief of 2020, I hope you will. I know it can feel scary sometimes to open up space for that pain, so you might even try setting aside a limited amount of time to try it. Light a candle, grab a box of tissue, snuggle a pet. Find stillness in your body and spirit. Breathe in and out, in and out. Allow yourself to honor and name the things and people you've lost this year. It is good to remember. It is good to let go.

One of the gifts of our faith is that we can take our grief to God: knowing that God is big enough to hold it all, trusting that God will help us find a way through the pain and frustration and anger and resentment. We are not alone in our grief. God is with us. And God accompanies us in our gratitude and grief, in our joy and sorrow, in all that we do. Thanks be to God.

WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE DEEP IN GRIEF

By Patricia McKernon Runkle

Slip off your needs

and set them by the door.

Enter barefoot

this darkened chapel

hollowed by loss

hallowed by sorrow

its gray stone walls

and floor.

You, congregation

of one

are here to listen

not to sing.

Kneel in the back pew.

Make no sound,

let the candles

speak.

On Sunday, November 1, we will gather online, in Zoom, FB live, and at www.community-ucc.org for All Saints worship. We will gather at the Table that day – please have something to break and something to pour – no matter what it is, God will bless it. Also, gather some candles for that day. You may want to have a candle for each person you have lost this year. You may want to have candles for people you love who have died in past years. You may want to have a candle, or several candles, for people the world over who have died from Covid. You will be invited to list the names of people who have died in the comments and chat. Those names will be lifted up and we will light candles: Light Perpetual will shine upon them.

Blessings,



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



Note: I am grateful for the work of Rev. Caela Wood of First Congregational Church UCC, Manhattan, KS, for the newsletter inspiration.

November Mini-Series: Community and Faith

During the month of November, we will explore three essential aspects of living our faith in community. We'll explore the themes of God's steadfastness and our faithfulness on November 8. Campus Ministry will lead worship, with Pastor Nate preaching, on Sunday, November 15. Their theme will be compassion. On November 22, Thanksgiving Sunday, we'll dive deeply into gratitude. Throughout this miniseries, we will draw upon the wisdom found in Margaret Wheatley's classic **Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future**. This is a short but powerful read. It is accessible. If you would like to be part of a small group that reads it together, let me know and we will organize those. In the introduction, Wheatley writes, "The intent of this book is to encourage and support you in beginning conversations about things that are important to you and those near you." Wheatley believes, as did Mr. Rogers, as do I, that conversation has the power to change the world. No matter what happens on election days....and in the days that follow....we will need to learn how to talk and listen to one another with compassion, in faithfulness to our values, and with gratitude for this abundant life. This is the work before us. Let's begin.

Virtual Serenity Space for Election Day and the Morning After

On Tuesday, November 3, beginning at noon, CUCC will offer an online space for prayer and meditation. This space will be open continuously through 1 pm on Wednesday, November 4.

Here's how it will work: Imagine you feel anxious on election day, stressed, or worried, and need a place to be still. Or, conversely, imagine you are feeling emboldened, empowered, or moved with compassion and want to be with people in their need. No matter how you are feeling, you will have a place to go: CUCC's Virtual Election Day Serenity Space. When you log on to this Zoom room, you will see that the host camera is spotlighted on an altar space. It may contain a candle, a fountain, a photo from nature, perhaps a labyrinth, or a piece of artwork -- these things may change throughout the day and night. There will be soothing music playing. Your microphone, and everyone else's will be muted upon entry, so you will not need to worry about obtrusive talking. Here, you have space to breathe. We will have a Google Doc where you can post your prayer requests. The link is below. The link will be placed in the chat periodically for new comers to view, but we suggest you keep it on hand (unfortunately, when you log onto Zoom, you cannot view anything posted in the chat prior to your arrival – this is the best work around we could come up with). You may add your own prayer requests to the Google Doc knowing that we are bearing one another's burdens. You can stay as long as you want. You can leave and come back any time, or as many times as you want, during this 25-hour period. Every three hours, a short reading and a prayer will be offered.

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We ask that you only share the Zoom address and password with people you know who need a space like this so that we lessen the chance of being Zoom-bombed. Thanks. Some of the moments of spoken meditation may be live streamed to Facebook.

Pastor Leah will provide readings for volunteers to offer at these designated times -- 11/3 at Noon, 11/3 at 3 pm, 11/3 at 6 pm, 11/3 at 9 pm, midnight, 11/4 at 3 am, 11/4 at 6 am, 11/4 at 9 am, 11/3 at Noon. If you would like to be one of the readers, please sign up here: <https://doodle.com/poll/v22q3g3wbxx32swi> Mark the time on your calendar and set a reminder for yourself. When it's your time, you will log onto Zoom, unmute yourself, and read the piece provided you by Pastor Leah. If you are the only person there, you may want to wait a couple of minutes in case folks are running late. And, if no one stops by for your reading, don't take it personally -- it's not about you.

Here is the Google Doc we will use as a perpetual prayer list for this event. Feel free to click and list your prayer request beginning on election day.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zgbPCgdRVzxR3Q1eBh2zSGqywm5yIMc4PER7Pc8avTg/edit?usp=sharing>

Here's the link for this event: CUCC Virtual Election Day Serenity Space, November 3, 2020, 12:00 PM CST – November 4, 2020, 12:30 PM CST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82910866002?pwd=b2tHdIRUVDEyWGlyNFJHTnAyOUZYz09>

Meeting ID: 829 1086 6002 Passcode: 887500

Dial by your location

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 829 1086 6002
Passcode: 887500

This ministry of presence comes to you from your CUCC Church Life Board. At our October meeting, they considered how the church could support you throughout election day. If there is a need to extend or schedule additional Serenity Spaces, we will do that.

Interfaith Alliance Thanksgiving Community Event

Save the date! On November 22, the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County will host a Community Thanksgiving Event. There is an in-person component (outdoors and physically distanced) and an at home component: you are invited to put a candle (battery operated or real) in your window that evening. More details are yet to come – stay tuned.

Save the Date! Longest Night Worship

We will gather virtually for Longest Night Worship on Sunday, December 13, 7:00 pm on Zoom. We will also livestream this service to CUCC's Facebook page and website. We know this will be a powerful and much needed worship service this year. Please invite your friends.

Moderator Musings

We are not yet to the season of Advent, but we have entered that time of year when anticipation of the holidays begins. As CUCC has recognized for years, while this is advertised as a time of joy, celebration, maybe even relaxation, the reality for many - - perhaps for most - - is considerably more ambivalent. That under-acknowledged ambivalence will no doubt be greater in 2020 than in years past. The very act of gathering family members together from the corners of the state or the corners of the country presents a health hazard, and that's before anyone has eaten the first baked good or started talking politics. Many who experience these months as times of acute loneliness will be entering them from months of isolation. Put another way, the final two months of 2020 look to be every bit as 2020 as the first ten. And I just want to say that while the uncertainty, anxiety, and isolation have been real and persistent, the warmth and creativity and dedication to community of our church have also been real and sustaining. We don't know what is coming in the weeks ahead. We do know that CUCC will be here, that Pastor Leah will be here, and that as a community we will support each other and continue God's healing work in this broken world.

~Jon

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Stewardship – Cultivating Hope

From the Stewardship Co-chairs:

If you've been in worship the past month you've heard that the theme of our Annual Stewardship Campaign this year is "Cultivating Hope". We've heard from several people so far about how CUCC has transformed their own lives and given them a way to help shape a better future for others. Thank you to everyone who is sharing their story!

By now you should have received a stewardship packet in the mail with information about how to pledge and give, online or by mail. Our church's annual budget is based on the financial resources we expect to receive in the coming year, and your pledge is an important part of that. While Ingathering Sunday is November 1, it's never too late! You can mail in the pledge card from your packet, or go to <http://community-ucc.org> to set up a pledge or make donations.

On Nov 22, we'll announce our pledged total, and the CLB will begin the process of setting next year's budget. Thank you to everyone who is able to contribute financially, time, or talent, to help us all Cultivate Hope.

~ Elizabeth Shack and Marilou Hinrichs



Worship Ministry Team

Advent Season Brings Many Opportunities to Participate in Worship

Advent is a season particularly grounded in the physical, sensory presence of the Church. The sanctuary is decorated to celebrate the upcoming birthday just as we often decorate our own homes-- with special tablecloths, special dishes, special lights, special candles, even a Christmas tree! The weather is cold outside, but the sanctuary is warm inside. "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All" seems more than a slogan as the larger than usual congregation settles in to worship together. Everyone looks forward to hearing and singing their favorite Christmas carol during services. Kids seem more excited about life in general, as do many of us adults, and seeing that excitement, that joy, on the faces at Church is so very special.

This year, though, we will not be able to be together in the sanctuary at Church, and two options stand before us: First, we can accept defeat and simply look toward next year, letting this Advent be whatever it turns out to be. Second (and much preferred), we can figure out how we are going to make this Advent warm and joyous, even if we can't be in the sanctuary together! Toward this end, there will be lots of opportunities to be involved in creating an exciting, involving, happy and joyous Advent season. This is the time, to paraphrase President Kennedy, to ask not what your Church can do for you, but what you can do for your Church!

Liturgist and Greeter Volunteer Opportunities

The worship team is seeking Liturgists and Greeters for November and December. Volunteer for either or both positions by accessing the Sign-Up Genius Links below.

Liturgists: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgistsnovemb>

Greeters: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greetersnovember>



The liturgist can choose to lead the liturgy live (Call to Worship and reading Scripture) or by recording it ahead time and submitting a video. Directions are provided.



The role of the greeter is to welcome folks by name as they sign onto Zoom. Directions are provided.

Join in singing or playing some Christmas songs!

We hope to make the advent season extra special by inviting any interested CUCC individuals or families to lead Christmas carols in worship. Sharing our voices and faces during worship is a way to welcome others and keep us connected while we are apart. Accompanying and solo instruments are also welcome to join (guitar, clarinet, violin, flute, etc.) Please sign up by the date listed for one or more carols that you'd like to sing or play so we have time to prepare and record. Carols can be sung by a single individual or a combination of many people! Depending on how many people sign up, Kathy will be in touch about the best way to collaborate and record. If we are lucky, we will have a mix of ages, ways to record, and accompaniments. List all participants from your COVID bubble who will perform together in your slot. Thanks for joining us in musical collaboration!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4baeaf22a0fbc43-join>



Advent Candle Lighting

Would your household like to light Advent Candles for worship this year? You can prerecord and send in, or do it live. Pastor Leah will send you the liturgy. It will include a short reading and a prayer. You will need to have four candles set up and in camera range. Even if you aren't lighting all 4, all four need to be there.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-advent>

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A Cozy Advent for 2020

- An Advent Kit is Coming Your Way!

Since we will be staying home this Advent and Christmas season more than ever before, the Worship Team decided to lean into it – instead of bemoaning the fact that we will not be go-go-go this holiday season, why not turn it around? Why not take this as an opportunity to practice being at home, in ourselves and in the spaces in which we live, this Advent? Why not learn from people who do this well?

Many have studied Denmark, the long-held “happiest country in the world,” to pinpoint the aspects of Danish life that help bring about this happiness. Much of this can be summed up in *hygge* (pronounced “hoo-ga”), sometimes translated as “the art of coziness.” At once an antidote to over-busy consumerism and a lovely reminder of what matters most, *hygge* is a perfect way for families to live into the season of Advent, lighting candles and snuggling in to what the Danes call “the duvet of darkness.” This year, CUCC will celebrate “A Cozy Advent” using materials from Salt Project. Our weekly worship themes will point us towards practices that deepen our faith in this season of anticipation. And, each CUCC household will receive materials to help you do this at home throughout the week. Each household will receive a set of five devotional table tents, one for each week of Advent (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love), and a fifth for Christmas Eve/Day. Each tent features a lovely little table devotional, including a scripture reading, reflection, suggested practices, and a prayer. They are perfect to add a bit of Christmas *hygge* decor to your table this season.

During the week of November 15, you will receive your Advent kit:

- the *hygge* table tents
- a set of Christmas Eve candles and bobeches to use on Christmas Eve AND to use while filming a clip for our Christmas Eve service
- Instructions on how to film (and upload) a clip of you (and your household) lighting and passing the light for CUCC to use during our Christmas Eve worship service.



Advent Word a Day:

Throughout Advent, we want to make it possible for our Community to be together even though we can't physically be together. In that spirit, we are doing a different take on the word-of-the-day practices we have done in the past for Advent and Lent. This year, you are invited to look at the list of words and see if there is a word that reminds you of an Advent or Christmas decoration, practice, or tradition you keep. If so, sign up for that word, then snap a photo and write a short paragraph, or film a short video of yourself explaining the connection. Paste your picture/paragraph or video file into this Google Doc Spreadsheet by or before the deadline listed with your word. These deadlines enable us to schedule social media posts accordingly – thanks for being timely! Read through the list and think about your Advent practices – what word connects with you? Here's the link to the sign-up sheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MAcqMJBSt6-r3k_OgOzzS199py1plqnI7yKAC-cKqU/edit?usp=sharing

*Word * Hope * Sprout * Unexpected * Visit * Journey * Watch * Night * Peace * Alert * Wild * Cry * Grow * Rough * Smooth * Joy * Rejoice * Ablaze * Sign * Prepare * Time * Pray * Love * Rest * Restore * Gather * Light * Emmanuel*

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Advent Wreath Making Workshop: November 15, 5:15 pm on Zoom

As part of our Cozy Advent theme for this year, we want to invite you to make your own Advent Wreath to use on Sundays and at mealtime. Join Pastor Leah for Advent Wreath Craft Time on Zoom with other CUCCers on Sunday, November 15, 2020, 5:15 pm. We know that crafts scare the beejesus out of some of you – be not afraid! If you can stir ingredients together, you can do this. If you can roll dough into a log, you can do this. If you want to be fancy and add decorations, you can do this (but you don't have to do that). Let's all do this together!

For this project, you will need:

- 4 taper candles – they *can* be 3 purple and 1 pink, but can be any color
- 1 ½ cups of plain flour
- ½ cup of salt (table salt, nothing fancy)
- 1 tablespoon of oil
- ⅔ cup of chilled water.

Please have all your ingredients ready to go in front of your device. Pastor Leah will lead you...and her children... through the steps together. After we finish, you will need to stick the wreath in your oven to dry. To see how this project looks, check out The Laminator's Daughter blog.

<https://laminatorsdaughter.wordpress.com/2011/12/01/salt-dough-advent-wreath/?fbclid=IwAR3GMH6VqgmyeJDcrMnJstkm8z2FcpoiCmwHbPvpDWBHlcb15mHyagLVLUg>



We will use the Sunday morning worship Zoom link for this event. So, just log on to the same link you used that morning for worship for this event.

Draw Near | 2020 Advent-Christmastide Devotional

The description of the 2020 Advent-Christmastide Devotional “Draw Near” as noted on the Pilgrim Press’s website says:

Social distancing is our new way of life. What a strange and alienating reality. Humans are wired for connection, and we do better -- mentally and physically -- with touch. So what is a human to do when drawing near is both what we most need and, in an age of pandemic, what might end us?

Find connection, find nearness, find God in all things this Advent (through Christmastide) with the Stillspeaking Writers' Group and contributors in *Draw Near*.

From the writers of the popular online [Daily Devotional](#), *Draw Near* includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day of Advent through Epiphany.



If this sounds like a resource you would like for your personal devotional time, you will be happy to know that we have **10 copies** in the office available for purchase. The cost is **\$3.95 each**. These books will be sold on a first come, first serve basis so please be in touch as soon as you decide you would like to purchase a *Draw Near 2020 Advent-Christmastide Devotional*.

~ Carla Rush.
Office Admin

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Ministry Opportunities at CUCC Volunteers Needed

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up	Article
Worship Team	Edit Videos	Office Admin	Info@community-ucc.org		
Worship Team	Technical Help	Office Admin	infor@community-ucc.org		
Worship Team	Liturgist	Chase Skye Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgistsnovemb	
Worship Team	Greeter	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greetersnovember	
Worship Team	Light Candle on Advent Wreath	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-advent	
Worship Team	Sing/Play a Christmas Carol	Music Director	music@community-ucc.org	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4baeaf22a0fbc43-join	
Worship Team	Hymn Leaders & Other Music for Worship	Music Director Musician	music@community-ucc.org bclark87@gmail.com	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VRO-hpyuH5Exip52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HZxzhefK7nlass/edit?usp=sharing	
Prayer Team	Team Member	Office Admin	Info@community-ucc.org		
Children's Ministry	Event Planner/Leader	Julie McClure	jemclure4@gmail.com		
Jubilee Café	Meal Prep, Cook, Clean-up	Johnell Bentz	johnell.bentz@gmail.com	https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer	



12 Days of Christmas Email Mini-retreat

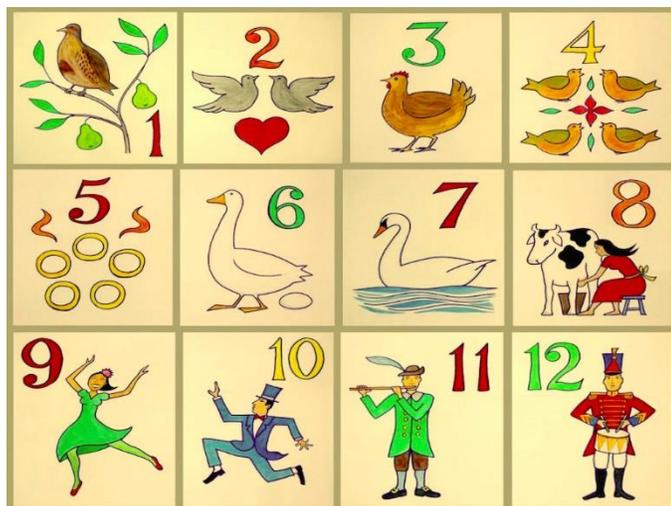
Ever wake up the day after Christmas and feel, well, a little bit down because it's all over? Or a little disappointed because you really *meant* to make your spiritual life a priority during the holidays, but, well-- the holidays! Never fear--it's not too late to stop and take a deep breath before the new year begins.

Pastor Connie, her friend Barbara England, and our own Sue Osborne are hard at work on a post-Christmas mini retreat for the 12 Days of Christmas. Many of you know Barbara from previous CUCC retreats. We are drawing our inspiration from Colossians 3:12-17, where we are asked to consider the qualities we want to "wear" as we move through the world as followers of Christ.

Participants will receive a daily email, with an image for contemplation, a very short meditation on one of the qualities lifted up in those verses, a question for reflection and a brief prayer for the day. We hope that the format will be user-friendly enough that you can use it in ways that best suit your life-- a few concentrated minutes once a day or several shorter "bursts" or whatever fits.

There is no charge for this-- we are offering it as a gift of love. If you are interested, you can sign up by emailing Pastor Connie at connie@community-ucc.org any time before December 15th. We look forward to your joining us as we move through the days between Christmas and Epiphany on January 6th.

~ Connie

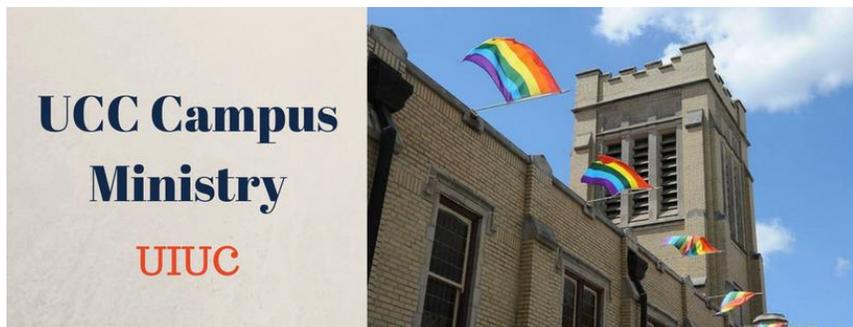


Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry continues to try to find a good balance of online support with tentative cautious attempts at in-person socially distanced outside gatherings. Games nights like Among Us build community from the safety of home and remote weekly Bible Studies are touchpoints for Christian education and checking in. We've even been graced with special guests to share their insights and wisdom during our Bible Studies, something we couldn't easily do before, so there's some good to come from it. For cautious in person gatherings we have been having weekly Jubilee Cafe afterparties around a campfire. Some weeks the fire is better than others, but we always end up with coals, roasted marshmallows, and sometimes we roast bread dough twists over the flames. Social distancing is good at these events (except for Campus Ministry Emotional Support Mutt Marley who has no concept of personal space) and mask wearing is always in effect. Our group chat is always lively, and the group works hard to lift each other's spirits and show compassion for each other. In the last month CUCC has gone above and beyond to share their love with students, with everything from a hotdog welcome event to personal cards and outreach. The support of the congregation means so much to the group and me. Looking forward we will have a challenging month as students will be gearing up for in-person classes to end by Thanksgiving but we are pushing ahead planning more ways to stay connected over the longer than usual break. One part of that will be worship services, so see you all there!!

-Rev. Nate Brantingham
(He, Him, His)
Director of Campus Ministry
UCF at Community UCC
(509) 434 9356

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Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!
Sunday, November 1 – Monday, November 30



Sunday, November 1, 2:00am: Daylight Savings Time ENDS

Sunday, November 1, 9:30am: Music Tech Help @ Worship Zoom

Sunday, November 1, 10:15am: All Saints Sunday Worship with Holy Communion



Sunday, November 1, 10:15am: Breakout Room during worship for Youth 6th-12th grade

Monday, November 2, 6:00pm: UCC A Service of Hope and Prayer

Registration required, register at https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/1616037186590/WN_0aiODAgEQ2yn2RPn2kKzYQ

Tuesday, November 3, 6:00am – 7:00pm: Election Day

Tuesday, November 3, 12:00pm – November 4, 1:00pm: CUCC's Virtual Election Day Serenity Space
(see details in Letters from Leah)

Wednesday, November 4, 7:00pm – CUCC Chime Choir in Sanctuary

Thursday, November 5, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 7, 9:00am – 12:00pm: Fall Clean-up Day

Sunday, November 8, 9:30am: Music Tech Help @ Worship Zoom

Sunday, November 8, 10:15am: Breakout Room during worship for Youth PreK – 5th grade

Wednesday, November 11, 7:00pm: CUCC Zoom Choir with Brian and Kathy in Sanctuary

Sunday, November 15, 9:30am: Music Tech Help @ Worship Zoom

Sunday, November 15, 1:30pm: Youth Group Meeting by Zoom

Sunday, November 15, 5:15pm: Advent Wreath Making Workshop

Tuesday, November 17, 11:30am: Monthly Retirees' Luncheon by Zoom

Tuesday, November 17, 6:30pm: Church Life Board Meeting,

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/815146054?pwd=UmMwdW01ZFBmV0hpZmxrRWNIUmhwdz09>

Meeting ID: 815 146 054 Password: 697698 Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00pm: CUCC Chime Choir in Sanctuary

Sunday, November 22, TBD: C-U Interfaith Alliance Thanksgiving Community Event– Details will be forthcoming

Monday, November 23, 9:00am: Articles for November Communigram Due

Tuesday, November 24, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Canteen Run, Kitchen

Thursday, November 26, 9:00am-3:00pm: Thanksgiving Day in the United States of America, CUCC Office Closed

Sunday, November 29, 10:15am: First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 13, 7:00pm: Longest Night Worship



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

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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	https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Youth Group (6 th -12 th grade)	Sun	1:30PM	402 056 418	578953	7/5-12/27	https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SkIXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVFOQT09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Pub Theology	Mon	7:00PM	954 5707 0801	902078		https://illinois.zoom.us/j/95457070801?pwd=WmlBN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Choir	Wed	7:00PM	326 389 912	854849	8/5-12/30	https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZqRkI4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
CUCC Community Drop-In Hour	Thu	12PM (Noon)	947 196 457	735760	7/9-12/31	https://zoom.us/j/947196457	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Monthly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC

Men's Breakfast	Monthly 1st Thu	7:00AM	989 7544 0361	328404	7/2-12/3	https://illinois.zoom.us/j/98975440361?pwd=UDlyMXFKU3ozVmN2M0tUL1ZJehVUT09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
CUCC Retirees' Luncheon	Monthly 3 rd Tue	11:30AM	935 3696 7862	103227	8/2-12/3	https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndiN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTViV29oZz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

A Note from CUCC's Music Director

Ever wonder how we put together music for our services? Considering joining us to sing a Christmas carol / Go Tell it on the Mountain this advent?

Join Kathy in a recording-focused Zoom session Sunday morning November 1, 8, and 15 at 9:30 to learn how to use the Acapella app, as well as other ways to record yourself. Follow this link to read the starter instructions:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15NZ-pCo_Rz0Hu3nTf-eYGBkcU1cM6DEm5Tn0pQ4IR_/edit?usp=sharing. Complete steps through: WAIT FOR KATHY TO SEND YOU A

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT. Then log into the Sunday morning worship Zoom at 9:30. All are welcome, even experienced folks looking for an extra tip or who might be able to lend their expertise!

We have a gracious and open community, and *we would love to hear whatever type of music inspires YOU.*

In collaboration,

Kathy Lee, music@community-ucc.org

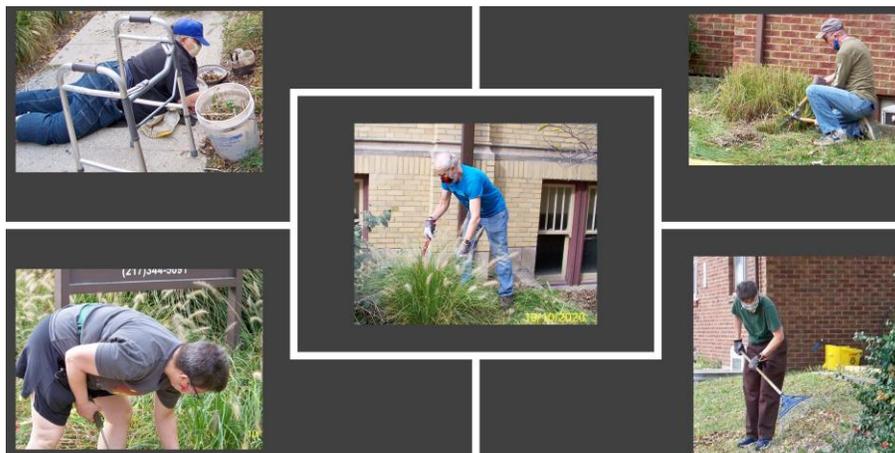
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Fall Clean-up Day

Our 2nd fall cleanup day is fast approaching so if you didn't get a chance to participate in the first one then here is your chance. I will need a few people willing to mask up and social distance for raking, pruning, and some weeding on Saturday 11/07/2020 from 09:00 AM until noonish. If you are interested in helping please contact me at matthewlorenhart@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Matthew Hart
Grounds Chairman



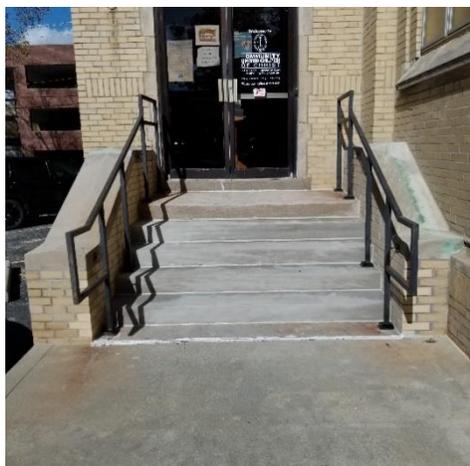
A big thank you goes out to all that helped with fall clean up, Saturday, October 10, 2020. The list includes such great people as Monica Vanko, Tom Ward, Elizabeth Shack, John Osborne, David Willcox, and Jennifer Cromley. It is difficult to tell with their masks on, but I am sure that each of these people had a look of Joy and Peace on their faces as they volunteered for this needed work. I would bet that right now those of you who did not participate are kicking yourself thinking that you missed out on such a golden opportunity. Thanks again!!

Construction Update

The work on our church building has continued over the past month!

- The new granite steps for the parking lot side entrance have been installed and the parking lot door is accessible once again!
- Automatic Hand Sanitizer Dispensers have been installed just inside both entrances (6th Street and Parking Lot).
 - Wearing a mask and sanitizing your hands are required to enter the building.

~Grant Robbennolt



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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, for more information.
~Johnell Bentz

Date	Hot Meals & Heat at Home	Total Meals
10/5/2020	54	54
10/12/2020	49	49
10/19/2020	47	47
10/26/2020	57	57
Total Meals	207	207



Leah's Facebook Report for October 5, 2020

Happy 3rd Birthday, Jubilee Cafe CUCC!!! Can you believe it? We've been serving homecooked, from scratch, farm to table meals to our community for three whole years. We are blessed to do this work and happy to serve.

Tonight, 54 meals went out the door. We had party hats balloons, birthday cake, and a gift for every single person -- \$5 McDonald's gift certificates. It was about as grand a celebration as we could pull off while still serving to go meals. More about that in a moment...first, some stats:

Over the course of the last 52 weeks, we have served 3551 meals, averaging 67 guests per week.

We saw things change with the arrival of covid. Pre covid, we served an average of 60 meals per week. Post covid, that average jumped to 73 meals per week. Pre covid, since our last birthday, an average of 32 volunteers per week made our meal possible. Post covid, though, in order to practice safe physical distancing, our meal has been made and served by an average of 10 volunteers per week.

We are grateful to all our volunteers, community partners, generous donors, and friends on social media who root for us and pray for us on the regular. You make this world possible. Local folks, we are looking for a few volunteers who are available on Monday mornings to assist Anna Barnes at the Food Bank, then at CUCC to unload. You need to be able to drive yourself and lift 30 pounds. Email jubilee.cafe@community-ucc.org if you can help.

Tonight, we served mini meatloaf, vegetarian or beef, with party potatoes, roma beans with peppers, and for dessert, Anna's chocolate butter cream birthday cake with blackberries and a black raspberry ribbon. It was delicious. Happy birthday, Jubilee! Let's all keep wearing our masks so that next year we can be back in our dining room for the party.



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Drivers Needed for Jubilee Cafe Food to Go Deliveries

Since the advent of Covid-19, the Urbana Drivers team that usually provided transportation to folks who wanted to come to services on Sunday but had no means has been delivering food on Monday evenings to two families that can use the help. We currently have four drivers but would like to expand our group. If you're available to pick up the meals on Mondays at 5 pm and deliver to two locations in Urbana and **are under the age of sixty**, please let me know. You can email me at iamozzie99@yahoo.com or call me at 217-841-8070.

Thanks,
John Osborne

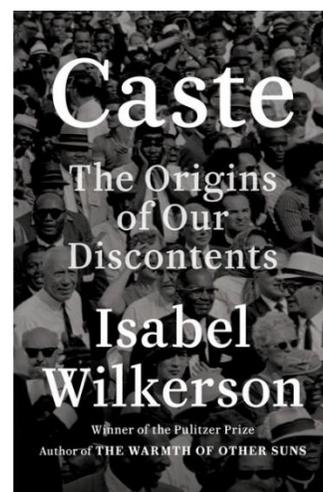


Pub Theology

The Monday evening Pub Theology group will be starting a new book on November 9. We start at 7:15pm and run until about 8:30. The new book is *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more.

If you'd like to join us, email Tom Ward (wardt508@comcast.net) and he will add you to the Zoom meeting announcement.

~Tom Ward



Community Building & Hospitality Team

Just wanted to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all of you for your participation in the 2020 CUCC's Zoom and Progressive Trick or Treat Party. You all really helped make it a success! We had over 40 zoom participants, 14 trick or treaters and 15 homes handing out treats. Wow!

Julie, you were an awesome witch MC. We really appreciate your last-minute flexibility and willingness to step in. Keri, as always, you were a wonderful zoom technician & also provider of spooky music. We appreciate you & your many talents!

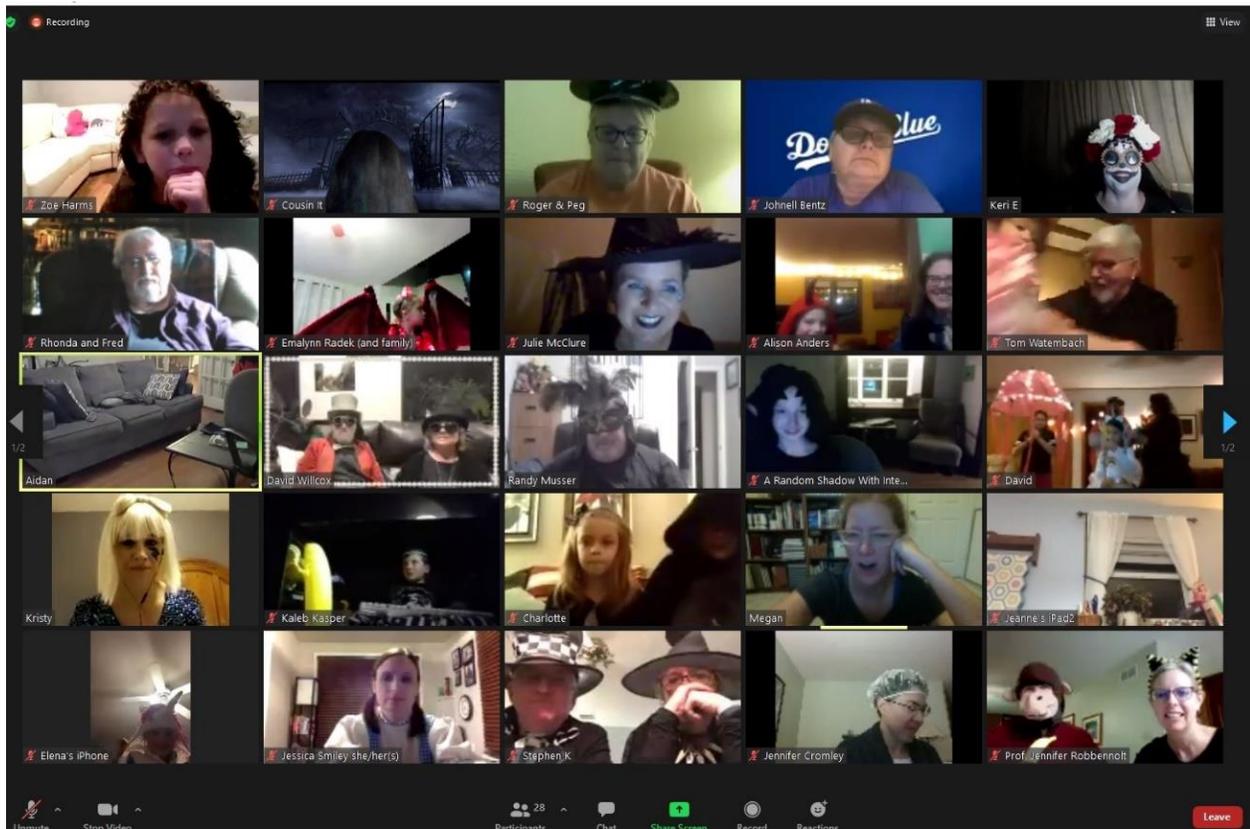
Jessica and Youth Group Kids - thank you so much for the creative scavenger hunt you designed for the party - it was so fun! Thanks Jessica, for sharing the game with us.

Pastor Leah and Violet - you both were amazing and lead us in not 1 but 2 really cool songs with motions! What fun! Also thanks for the idea of having a zoom Halloween party. We are so fortunate, Leah, to have you as our Pastor and, Violet, our Pastor's daughter.

Fred Robberts - we really appreciate you reading your scary poem to us. That was so nice of you to want to be a part of the CUCC Halloween Party. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your superb reading voice!

Carla Rush - for helping get the word out about the party, in so many ways, with so many reminders...you rock, Carla! Last, but certainly not least, we thank all of the CUCCer's that provided wonderful treats for our trick or treaters in a socially distanced manner. That was really a lot of fun for not only the kiddos but also the adults. THANK YOU to: Dennis & Ro Jamison, Johnell Bentz, Jon Ebel, Elizabeth Shack, Jennifer Cromley, Brin Schuler, McClure Family, Ellen & David Willcox, Jen & Grant Robbennolt, Keri Evans, Jan Hiland & Stephen Kolderup, Jeanne & Tom Ward. Lee Family, David Robertson & Randy Musser and Roger & Peg Wade.

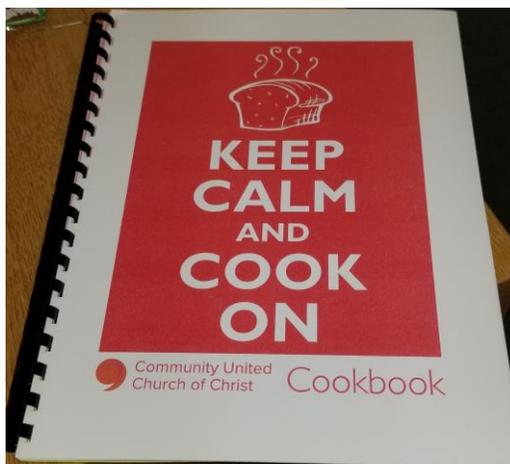
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** Zoom screenshot photo submitted by Ilsa Kantola

Sean & his family were here this past weekend and our fun little 2 year old grandson, Leo, was very excited to put on his Elmo costume to participate in the zoom costume parade with me...but that only lasted a couple short minutes, as playing with the trucks, trains, cars & a big firetruck in the next room is what he really wanted to be doing. So...that is where I was during much of the party too. Sorry that I missed some of what I know was a super fun zoom party, but quite honestly, playing with Leo was pretty darn awesome too! I was very thankful that we had wonderful, creative, and dependable folks leading the zoom party! I am a very lucky & blessed grandma!

Thanks again to all of you! CUCC is just the best!
 -Randy & Peg:
 Community Building/Hospitality Co Chairs



Cookbook

The *Keep Calm and Cook On* CUCC Pandemic Cookbooks are now completed and available for purchase for a small fee of just \$5.00. Cookbooks can be purchased by contacting Peg Wade at (217) 352-4927 or peg.wade@comcast.net, Randy Musser at (779) 861-0952 or randy1253@hotmail.com, or the Church Office at (271) 344-5091 or info@community-ucc.org.

-Randy & Peg:
 Community Building/Hospitality Co Chairs

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Children and Family Ministry

On **Sunday, November 8**, CUCC kids are invited to join another **breakout room** during worship. All kids **PreK-5th grade** will be invited to move to the breakout room for a Thanksgiving activity and then return to worship when the lesson is completed.

This does require multiple devices. It is completely up to you and your child as to whether they feel comfortable joining a breakout room or not. However, we hope they will give it a try!

~Julie McClure



Youth Group

The youth continue to engage virtually through Zoom. We are looking forward to our **youth breakout room** during the worship service on **Sunday, November 1st** for youth 6th – 12th grade. Youth will be asked to join the breakout room following the children's moment.

We will have youth group on **Sunday, November 15 at 1:30 PM**. We will meet by Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SkIXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09>

Meeting ID: 402 056 418
Passcode: 578953
Dial by Your Location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Thank you! Jessica



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Love More Sign

With the general election barely over a week away, political signs have exploded onto our landscape. I'd like to share a quick little endorsement of the notion that no good yard sign goes unnoticed.

A FedEx driver dropped off some motorcycle parts here last week (big surprise, I know) and I happened to be working in the yard when he stopped. He said that he liked our yard sign. It's a snazzy, double sided, rainbow colored "LOVE MORE" sign; our response to so many less positive signs that cropped up in this area earlier in the Spring.

I spoke with the delivery guy for a little while and he shared that his "world view changed 14 years ago" and because of that, his family has not spoken to him since. I told him I was sorry about his family ... but, good for him for the positive change. This was a brief interaction with a person I had never met before. We connected over a simple sign with a positive message. I would like to have been able to talk with him longer to learn more about his story, but he had work to do.

As he was leaving, he said that I would be surprised by the number of derogatory comments people have hurled at him for WEARING A MASK WHILE DELIVERING PACKAGES DURING A PANDEMIC.

Without a doubt the world needs to "Love More".

~ Jeff Stovall



SnugFest Time at Pilgrim Park and Tower Hill

Dear Camp Friends,

It's "SnugFest" time! Pilgrim Park and Tower Hill are continuing to keep their doors open this fall and winter to provide guests relief from the busyness of life, places where God's presence is obvious, providing moments of warmth, hope, and joy.

We have many rental opportunities with lodging ranging from 2-bedroom units to 6-bedroom units to complete retreat areas. This is a great chance to "get away" in a safe manner and greatly help our camps with the financial resource of this short-term rental income.

Come snuggle in with us for a couple days taking the time to hear God's voice in the wind, the waves of Lake Michigan, the babble of the creek, enjoy the walking trails and activities that range from eagle watching at Pilgrim Park to wave watching at Tower Hill.

Call or e-mail to see what "SnugFest" is available in size, dates and daily cost.

Mitch Kloster, Site Manager, Pilgrim Park Camp & Conference Center
phone: 815-447-2390, Email: odmregistrar@gmail.com

Reverend Tracy Heilman, Site Manager, Tower Hill Camp & Retreat Center
Phone: 269-426-3881, Email: towerhillcamp@gmail.com

Also, all online donations are really appreciated! <https://outdoorministries.campbraingiving.com/>

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Church Camp

Church Life Board

In 2020 Zoom is the way business is conducted even by the Church Life Board (CLB). Here is a screenshot of the CLB hard at work at their October 20, 2020 meeting. Many thanks to Ilsa Kantola for the photo.



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 | email: info@community-ucc.org
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday | 9am - 3pm