



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

Volume 60, Issue 1 – January 1 - 31

*A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation*

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## e-Communigram



### Announcements from the Moderator

#### Worship

A reminder that we will be worshipping 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

We will be holding the annual meeting of the church remotely, via Zoom, after worship on January 31.

Knowing that some would miss the Annual Meeting Luncheon, Keri Evans and Ilsa Kantola will keep the Worship Zoom Room open to share lunch with anyone who wishes to join them before the Annual Meeting.

The **Annual Meeting will convene at 12pm**. The two Sundays prior to the annual meeting, Grant Robbennolt and I will be available after worship to respond to questions about the proposed budget for 2021. If you have any concerns about connecting to the meeting or to the budget discussions, please let me know.

**Note:** The Annual Meeting will convene on the Worship Zoom Link.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09>

Meeting ID: 391 847 803

Password: 788969

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

~ CUCC Moderator Jon Ebel, [jebel@illinois.edu](mailto:jebel@illinois.edu)

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## Pre-Annual Meeting Budget Meetings

As most of you know, one aspect of our church's annual meeting—which will be held on January 31—is we'll discuss and approve our 2021 operating budget.

Some members of the church love looking at the individual line items on our budget spreadsheets and asking specific questions. Others would prefer to simply approve a budget. So for those who'd like the opportunity to review the budget in advance and drill into those detailed questions, you'll have two chances. Members of the Resource Management Ministry Team (i.e., the budget folks) will be available to speak with you right after worship on January 17 and again on January 24.

**Note:** The Pre-Annual Meeting Budget Review Discussions will convene on the Worship Zoom Link.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09>

Meeting ID: 391 847 803

Password: 788969

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

## Letters from Leah

Dear Community,

I wondered how pandemic life would shape Advent. I must admit that even with our intentionality in practicing hygge, and the forced stay at home, there was STILL a moment or two in December where I felt frantic. How about you?

After the rush and activity of the holiday season (even in pandemic), the new year can offer us a time of slowing down, simplifying, and leaning on reflection and prayer to help us sustain the journey toward a time when we can move to the rhythms of life for which we yearn. It is difficult to be patient in the midst of difficult times. The Psalms can help us with that. After a special joint worship service on Epiphany Sunday (see article), will spend the Epiphany season focusing on the Psalms, reminding ourselves that God Is Holding Our Lives.

Here's what you have to look forward to:

January 3 – **SPECIAL TIME** and Zoom link – **10:00 a.m.**

CUCC gathers to celebrate Epiphany Sunday with Land of the Sky UCC, Asheville, NC, and Greenpoint Reformed UCC, Brooklyn, NY. This service will feature music and participants from all three churches.

Topic: Joint Epiphany Service

Time: Jan 3, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada) → 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

**Note:** Worship begins at 10AM, 15 minutes earlier than usual. \*\*\*\*

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81565408574?pwd=NDdHa1Y3aVRxQ01jbTJHcktvbUhrUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 6540 8574

Passcode: 592982

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81565408574#,,,,,0#,,592982# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,81565408574#,,,,,0#,,592982# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 815 6540 8574

Passcode: 592982

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kJEcdOEs7>

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January 10 – Psalm 29: "My God gives strength to the people and blesses the people with peace..."

"Awe and Wonder"

Strength and peace is the prayer of the Psalm this week. The Psalmist says "let me count the ways" that we can know the strength of the Holy One. With awe and wonder we behold the presence of God in all the elements of creation—water, fire, air, earth. And it is this glory that assures us that God, indeed, is holding our lives.

January 17 – Psalm 139: "... you have searched me and you know me..."

"Where Can I Go?"

This week's Psalm text brings home this message: we are in an intimate relationship with God. There is nowhere we go that God is not present—no state of our being that results in our being abandoned. God has knit us together, has woven us, knowing us from before our beginning. God, indeed, is holding our lives.

January 24 – Psalm 62: "God alone is my rock and salvation... I shall not be shaken... "

"In God Alone"

So many songs have utilized this phrase to express devoted love. This week we see that this tradition goes back all the way to the poets of the psalm tradition. This is a love psalm of trust in the Holy One and who is the rock and refuge in the midst of life that sometimes feels as fleeting as breath. We put our trust in the One who, indeed, is holding our lives.

January 31 – Psalm 111: "...the works of God's hands are faithful and just..."

"Whole Heart Hallelujah"

One mode of poetry in the Psalms is all-out praise and thanksgiving, such as the one for today. We also find praise even in Psalms of lament and complaint because "God is good all the time and all the time God is good!" Life is not always good, but when we engage in gratitude, we remember the evidence of God at work in our lives and we remember that indeed, God is holding our lives, even now.

(This is also Annual Meeting Day! [See article above for details.](#))

February 7 – Psalm 147: "God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds..."

"We Wait, We Hope, We Stay"

Today's Psalm comes late in the Book and offers a glimpse of a time when the exiled outcasts are gathering back together and seeing their world built back up. We too, yearn for a re-gathering and a day when we sing our praises and play our instruments with abandon together again. We wait, we hope, we stay firm in our faith, knowing as our ancient ancestors did, that God is indeed holding our lives.

February 14 – Psalm 50: "God speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun its setting..."

"The One is Shining Forth"

The Psalm that comes at the end of our series speaks of an active God whose light shines for all time and in all places. God is not silent, but calls the people to remember that they, too, can act on God's behalf, holding all suffering peoples in hands of prayer and care and transforming the world that will shine bright into the future. May it be so.

### Epiphany Stars

Between Christmas and Epiphany Sunday, on January 3, you will receive an envelope with your star gifts! Do not open until worship on January 3 when we can all open them together.

Blessings,



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

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## Loneliness Series

### Singing the Pandemic Blues: Navigating the Challenges of Isolation and Meaningful Connection When Life is Disrupted

Over most of this past year, most of us found our lives radically changed as we learned to live in new ways due to the pandemic. Some of us haven't seen family members, either near or far, face-to-face in months. Some of us have had loved ones, friends or acquaintances die from the disease and then been denied our usual ways of making meaning and connecting when we suffer that sort of loss. Some of us lost the structure of going to the office and seeing our coworkers every day, and some of us even lost our livelihoods. Some of us suddenly found the social connections that make our lives fun and interesting severely curtailed. Some of us... Well, the list could go on and on as we think about the changes we have experienced and the losses we have endured. And frankly, all those things have left a lot of us feeling weary and worn, isolated and alone.

We invite you to join us at 5:30 p.m. on **Sundays, January 10, 17, and 24** to explore our experience, learn from experts and from one another, and develop strategies to help us nurture meaningful connections to sustain us until the time when we can safely gather with one another face-to-face again. We will be using the Zoom Link below for these gatherings. You may want to make yourself a cozy supper to enjoy as we meet, since the act of eating together can be a comfort (even if we have to do that virtually). Pastor Leah, Pastor Connie, and members of our Health and Wellness Team will be our facilitators for this series. Projected topics include cultivating a sense of purpose and identity in the face of overwhelming change, tools for coping with fear and anxiety in isolating circumstances, renewing adaptive energy when change is constant, accepting and adapting to the limitations of technology as a means of connection, and learning to grieve and let go of what we must so that new growth can come. Someday this pandemic will end, and we want to be ready to walk into that future with strength and energy to rebuild our lives and our connections!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753197334?pwd=ZENQVDNjYORQMWxNVXRjd2w3WDFVZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 5319 7334

Passcode: 675757

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84753197334#,,,,,0#,,675757# US (Chicago)

+13017158592,,84753197334#,,,,,0#,,675757# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+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: 847 5319 7334

Passcode: 675757

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kehOc6kEms>



## Moderator Musings

What a year this has been. We have hope that the new year will bring a return of normalcy. We have faith that we are growing toward the divine even if that growth isn't always discernible. We give thanks for the guidance we find in Pastor Leah's words, the strength we find in our community, and the inspiration (divine and human) that has generated so many wonderful adaptations. We don't know what the new year will bring. We pray that when we grow weary, we will remember where we have been together, and put one foot in front of the other.

~Best, Jon

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From the Stewardship Co-chairs, Elizabeth Shack and Marilou Hinrichs

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those who helped with this fall's Stewardship Campaign and to everyone who so generously pledged to the 2021 Annual Fund. The pledge total to date is \$182,564.00.

In such a difficult and uncertain year, we want to thank you for making this commitment to "Cultivate Hope" and sustain our church community.

Remember that though the pledge campaign has ended, anyone wishing to do so can still make a pledge by going to <https://champaignucc.breezechms.com/form/2021Pledge>.

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## News from the Center for Spirituality and Faith for 2020

We are excited to announce that we have again purchased a group subscription to the Prayer Bench resources so many of you used and enjoyed this past year. Unlike last year, however, limits on how many participants we can register have been lifted, and we now can make the resources available to all who are interested. How the resources will be distributed has also changed, giving us more flexibility in how and when we make them available (by email and/or with physical copies), so that we can tailor the offerings to fit better with the CUCC calendar.

In 2021, the following retreats and activities will be offered:

- January—A Winter Retreat (email)
- February—An Ash Wednesday retreat to help you prepare for a contemplative Lent
- March—Three "Praying the Scriptures" videos will be available for individual and small group use
- April—A Holy Week daily email to help reflect on the events of the week leading to the Crucifixion and on to Easter
- May/June—Stroll for Your Soul, a three-week program to help us get moving and paying attention to the world around us as warm weather returns
- September/October—Fall "Rambles" to help us reflect on the turning of the season (15 days)
- November/December—a small group study related to Advent, an Advent Prayers Retreat



If you would be interested in receiving the January Winter Retreat, please let the church office ([info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)) or Pastor Connie ([connie@community-ucc.org](mailto:connie@community-ucc.org)) know by **January 10<sup>th</sup>**.

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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	<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-liturgistsjanuar">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgistsjanuar</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-greeters2">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters2</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>		
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>	



### Cards for Campus Ministry Students

This project is a way to show some love, support, and encouragement to the Campus Ministry students since we cannot gather with them in person. The way to do this is to send them cards for all various holidays. Patty invites as many members of the community who would like to encourage a student to sign up at the sign-up genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A44ABAD28A4FD0-cards>. Patty will contact you with the name and address of the student you will be sending your card to as the card sending day draws closer.

The best part of this project is that you can either purchase a card from the store or simply pull out your crayons, markers, and paper. And if anyone needs paper I have plenty of bulletin covers you can stop by the church and pick up and use the back side to draw to your hearts content. Happy card making.



Please contact Patty Gropp with questions at [groppretired@gmail.com](mailto:groppretired@gmail.com).

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## Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!

Friday, January 1 – Sunday, January 31



**Sunday, January 3, 10:00am: Epiphany Worship – CUCC gathers with Land of the Sky UCC, Ashville, NC, and Greenpoint Reformed UCC, Brooklyn, NY. Notice: Worship begins 15 minutes early and the Zoom Link is different!!**

**Thursday, January 7, 7:00am: Men’s Breakfast**

**Sunday, January 10, 10:15am: Breakout Room during worship for Youth PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Sunday, January 10, 1:30pm: Youth Group by Zoom**

**Sunday, January 10, 5:30pm: Isolation/Loneliness Series**

**Sunday, January 17, 12:00pm: Pre-Annual Meeting Budget Meeting with Moderator Jon Ebel and Grant Robbennolt**

**Sunday, January 17, 5:30pm: Isolations/Loneliness Series**

**Tuesday, January 19, 11:30am: Monthly Retirees’ Luncheon by Zoom**

**Tuesday, January 19, 6:30pm: Church Life Board Meeting,**

**Sunday, January 24, 10:15am: Breakout Room during worship for Youth 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Sunday, January 24, 12:00pm: Pre-Annual Meeting Budget Meeting with Moderator Jon Ebel and Grant Robbennolt**

**Sunday, January 24, 5:30pm: Isolation/Loneliness Series**

**Sunday, January 31, 11:30am: Annual Meeting Lunch on Zoom with Keri Evans and Ilsa Kantola**

**Sunday, January 31, 12:00pm: Annual Meeting**

*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	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09">https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Youth Group (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade)	Sun	1:30PM	402 056 418	578953	7/5-12/27	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=Sk1XaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFhVhVWVFOQT09">https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=Sk1XaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFhVhVWVFOQT09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Pub Theology	Mon	7:15PM	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)
Choir	Wed	7:00PM	326 389 912	854849	8/5-12/30	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZgRkl4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09">https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZgRkl4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09</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)

### Monthly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC

Men's Breakfast	Monthly 1st Thu	7:00AM	829 1216 9514	636040	(Tom)	<a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTINUnR1SjIVUT09">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTINUnR1SjIVUT09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
CUCC Retirees' Luncheon	Monthly 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	11:30AM	935 3696 7862	103227	(Tom)	<a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTVIV">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTVIV</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



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## Worship Ministry Team

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

### Liturgist and Greeter Volunteer Opportunities



**Liturgist:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgistsjanuar>

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

**Greeter:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters2>

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



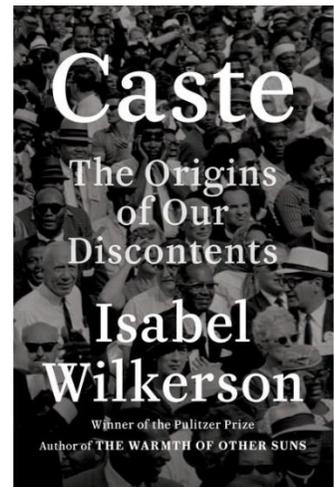
## Pub Theology

The Monday evening Pub Theology group continues their discussion about the book *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.

Pub Theology starts at 7:15pm and runs until about 8:30.

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

~Tom Ward



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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	Hot Meals & Heat at Home	Total Meals
11/30/20	55	55
12/7/20	49	49
12/14/20	57	57
12/21/20	47	47
12/28/20	40	40
<b>Meals Served This Month</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>248</b>



(The picture and comments come from Pastor Leah's [#fromtheground](#) Facebook posts over the last month.)

A few folks even noticed that Pastor Nate and I have new matching hats (check the pic -- this is what happens when one of your favorite breweries offers swag that doubles as work attire for pastors).

If you are interested in gifting our guests this winter, we will gladly receive donations of \*new\* hats, gloves, scarves, and winter socks. Since our building isn't open much these days, you can ship them to Johnell or me.

[Jubilee Cafe CUCC](#) provides more than just food for hungry bellies. We provide crucial points of connection for people -- all kinds of people. Especially during the pandemic, when campus life is non-existent, being able to rely of Jubilee's ministry of presence week after week is one of the things that has buoyed so many of our student guests amid this unprecedented and difficult season

The winter is going to get hard. It will get darker and colder before the light comes and the warm returns. The pandemic will worsen. As we move into these challenging months, find out how you can support people in your community who are alone or lonely. Even though we must stay physically separated, we can't become disconnected from one another. How might you foster connections in your community?

Pastor Leah got to talk with Paige and Aaron of *The Pod Be With You* podcast and tell the [Jubilee Cafe CUCC](#) story. You can listen on Apple Podcasts at this link, or on Stitcher, Buzzsprout, or Podchaser. Learn the Jubilee Cafe origin story and how the pandemic has made us pivot in the work we do. [#FromTheGround](#). <https://podcasts.apple.com/.../a-pastoral.../id1525573703...>



## Construction Update

### More Building Progress

Our last bit of lingering roofing work was the very southwest corner of the building (see photo). You can actually see this roof by driving to the top of the parking deck next to 510 Daniel and looking down on it. Prior to the repairs, it looked a bit like a fishpond!

We're now shifting to inside work. Several church members met in mid-December to talk about paint colors for the different areas of the church that will be painted. These areas include the Sanctuary, the Parlor, the "old" 6<sup>th</sup> Street entryway, the Daniel Street entryway, and the worship materials storage area (the room right below the aforementioned SW roof). We expect the bulk of the painting will be completed in January.

Unfortunately, the tuck pointing along the 6<sup>th</sup> Street side of the building is on hold until after the construction is completed on the exterior of the new building across the street. Our masons need to use a lift to access that side of our building but 6<sup>th</sup> Street is already down to only one lane due to construction across the street. Hence, that will likely delay painting the Parlor because we don't want to repair or paint the Parlor walls until the tuckpointing is complete (which should fix any remaining water problems).

~ Grant Robbenolt



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## Retiree's Zoom Lunch

The CUCC's Retiree's December Zoom Lunch will be **Tuesday, January 19th, 11:30 a.m.** Watch for a zoom link for the lunch coming soon. We hope you will join us for fellowship, sharing, laughs and lunch.

-Roger & Peg





## Children and Family Ministry

Happy New Year CUCC families!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and cozy Christmas, no matter how it looked this year. We will be having our next breakout session for kiddos on Sunday, January 10. Hope to see lots of faces there!

~Julie McClure



## Youth Group

The youth participated in a breakout room and a different yet fun Christmas party in December. We played games and painted ornaments during the Zoom Christmas party. It was great to watch these young people interact with each other and have fun in this different yet meaningful way. The youth's biggest wishes for the holidays included Covid being over and vaccines for everyone. We will have youth group on Sunday, January 10th at 1:30 pm (Zoom) and a breakout room during worship on Sunday, January 24. More details to come!

The Zoom meeting information is below.

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

Meeting ID: 402 056 418

Password: 578953

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,402056418# US (Chicago)

~ Jessica Smiley, Director of Youth Ministries



## All God's Creatures Gather for Worship

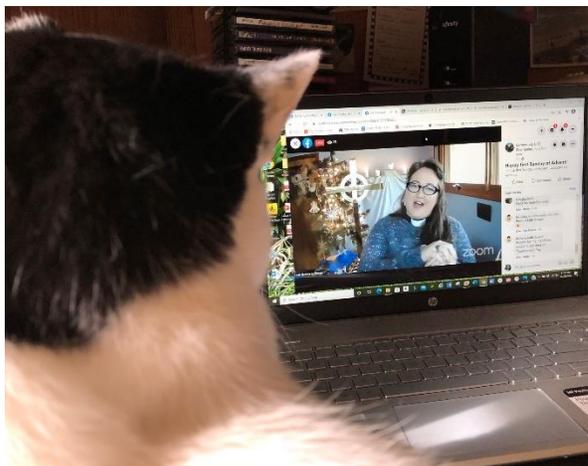


Photo: submitted by Nancy Elliott

Nancy Elliott writes that this happens nearly every Sunday. My cat Buzz enjoys several minutes of Sunday service on FB. He usually does not make it through the whole service without a nap, but he has to stop in for a few minutes of worship time.

This reminds me of a song, **A Place in the Choir**.

*All God's creatures got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher,  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires,  
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they  
got now*

["A Place in the Choir" - YouTube](#)

Thank you, Nancy, for sharing the story and picture of Buzz worshipping with all of us at CUCC.

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## Thank You Notes

### A Thank You from Ruth Fisher's Daughter

*(For those of you who are newer or may not know Ruth Fisher she is one of at-home members who resides at Clark-Lindsay Village. We received this thank you from her daughter, Meg).*

Thanks to UCC for its role in our mother's life for many decades. I can remember, long, long ago being "the gold angel" in a Christmas pageant. Emily Hanson was the blue angel. My only line was, "Lo!" Even our father came to church for that occasion.

Reverend Savage is the first minister I remember, and then Reverend Applewhite. As a grown-up, I've enjoyed coming to UCC and singing hymns whenever I'm in town, often traveling to and from with Mom's friend Becky Hanson. I know that my mother liked especially that UCC is open and welcoming to everyone and is involved in community outreach.

Please pass my gratitude on to others,  
Meg Fisher



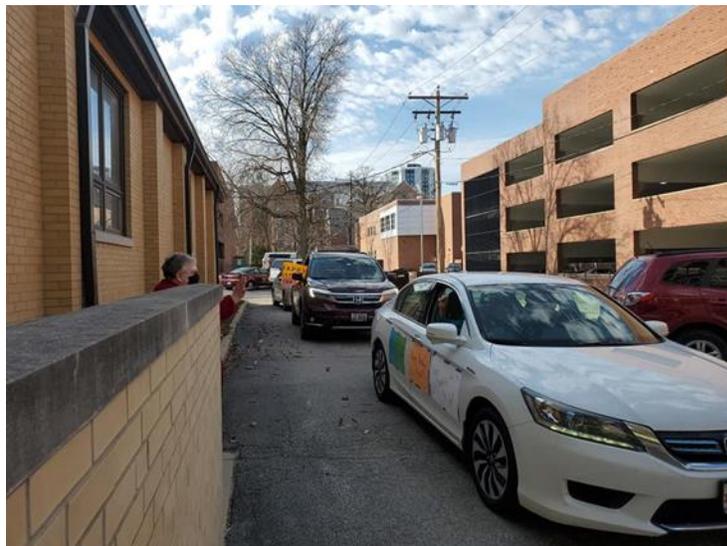
### A Thank You from Martha Seif

**Thank  
You!**

I would like to thank all the church members who have sent cards, and notes to me over the past few weeks. The delicious cookies that all of you made for the cookie exchange somehow made their way to my house by a jolly elf with a green sleeved outfit on. Your thoughtfulness to me and others means so much. Our church has always been outstanding in being there for each other. One always hears this but until you are a real shut in, not just by the virus, you realize the real meaning. May God's blessings be upon you, keeping you safe and well until we see each other again. Martha Seif

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## A Thank You from Office Admin, Carla Rush



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Thank you hardly seems to be the appropriate words to convey my gratitude to all of you. Yet, they are the only words I know to say. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve alongside you in ministry here at CUCC. For me, having the opportunity to support CUCC's ministry during the pandemic was a lifesaver. It certainly gave me something to focus on besides the news. It also gave the opportunity to "meet" through Zoom worship and various other ways so many of you. Thank you for the opportunity to work with all of you. A special thank you to all of you who took time to participate in the surprise drive by birthday parade in November (see pictures above). I really appreciated that surprise. May God bless us all in 2021.

Carla Rush, Office Admin

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### Contact CUCC:

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