



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-CommuniGram

Volume 60, Issue 5 – May 1 - 31

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

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Letters from Leah

“When will church...?”

“What will happen when church can...?”

“How will church...?”

“In the future, at church, will we...?”

...fill in the blanks as you will.

Over the last 14 months, I've been asked countless questions about the future details of church from what worship will look like, to what Sunday School and in person youth group will look like when they resume, to what all manner of adult activities will look like, to when (and how.... maybe even if) Jubilee Café's in-person dinner service will be restored. Each time, I've had to answer I don't know – we are working on it. I do have hopes, dreams, and priorities, but the details are still very unclear. Similarly, we've had grantors ask us what the future of Campus Ministry looks like. To that question, Pastor Nate had to answer: we don't know -- Campus Ministry has made plans, and canceled plans, then made new plans, and adjusted plans more times than any of us can count. We are working on it. We do have hopes, dreams, and priorities, but....

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CUPHD will be offering Pfizer, and possibly Moderna vaccines.

I was feeling really bad about this. Honestly. I deeply wish that pandemic life had as clear cut an end as it had beginning. I wish I knew what church was going to look like in the future, but I don't. And while we have plans for the next little bit (exciting plans, I might add!) what I have learned during the pandemic is to expect plans to change. Knowing this didn't make me feel any better.

And, then, I went to an online retreat with Diana Butler Bass, the award-winning author who is one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality. She told us this story, at a recent virtual speaking event, she was asked a question about what the future of church in a post-pandemic world looks like. Her answer: I don't know.

When someone who spends the majority of her waking hours studying and thinking about trends in American Christianity (and is really *good* at forecasting such trends) says she doesn't know what the future looks like, it lets the rest of us exhale a little. If Diana Butler Bass doesn't know, it's ok for us to not know. It may not make us feel better, but it's ok.

What she does know, though, about what we have experienced, as opposed to what the future holds, is helpful and clarifying. We

are living in a world-wide moment of liminality. Liminal space is transitional space. We are in the in-between. In the in-between, the future is always unclear, until it is not, and when that happens, often is a surprise. In moments of not knowing, the best thing for us to do is to be fully present in the here and now, take stock, and find our way through to what is next together, knowing that we will all have to make adjustments as we emerge from this liminal space where our loss has been so great. In her article "Religion After Pandemic" Dr. Bass says, "It is quite striking how people use the word "lost" and "loss" to describe the last fourteen months: we've lost friends and relatives to death, we've lost a year of our lives, we've lost income, we've lost a sense of security, we've lost our ability to move freely through the world. We've lost a lot." But when we think about all we've lost, she points out that "lost" has double meaning. Yes, "lost means gone," but "it also means dislocated." As we ready ourselves for the next phase of the pandemic, one in which we will get to see one another more, in person, it is important for us to name, very clearly, what we have lost and what kinds of dislocation we have experienced so that we can relocate ourselves once again.

Bass outlines four distinct ways in which we have experienced dislocation. She writes:

1. **Temporal dislocation** -- *We've lost our sense of time as it existed before the pandemic. How often have you thought: What day is this? ...*
2. **Historical dislocation** -- *We've lost our sense of where we are in the larger story of both our own lives and our communal stories. History has been disrupted...*
3. **Physical dislocation** -- *We've lost our sense of embodiment with others and geographical location. For millions, technology has moved "physicality" into cyber-space and most of us have no idea what to do with this virtual sense of location...*
4. **Relational dislocation** -- *We've lost our daily habits of interactions with other humans, the expression of emotions together in community...*

During the retreat, after Diana Butler Bass took us through these four kinds of dislocations, expounding on each with personal examples to which we could all relate, a participant added a fifth kind of dislocation. Dr. Bass agreed: we have all experienced this too:

5. **Spiritual dislocation** – *We've lost our ability to practice our faith as a gathered community. Our communal rituals have been disrupted and will require adaptation for a post pandemic world. Our personal faith may feel rudderless...*

As we ready ourselves for the next phase of the pandemic, "with these dislocations in mind," Bass writes, "the task comes into focus. Surely, religious communities need to be about the work of *relocation* – finding what has been lost, repairing what has been broken, and re-grounding people into their own lives and communities."

That's the work before us, Community. I want to encourage you to read Dr. Bass's entire article (see link that follows this letter), do some journaling about the questions she lists at the end, and come to the open house CLB is hosting this month. Together, we will relocate what has been lost. Together, we will reconnect and find our way through to being the church re-gathered. It will be slow. It may be messy. We will have to adjust and readjust. Whatever we do, we will do it in care and love.

Beginning on the last Sunday of May, after a joint Pentecost celebration with our siblings in Christ in North Carolina and New York
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City, with whom we worshipped back on Epiphany, we will begin a worship series based on the Five Dislocations. With each dislocation, we will read a sacred story from scripture that deals with the same kind of dislocation. It is helpful to remember that people have experienced these kinds of dislocations before. They found their way through and we will too.

Blessings,
Leah



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



Here's the article: dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/religion-after-pandemic?r=45vbf&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&utm_source=twitter&fbclid=IwAR2Bf4adFHTdNrdYGcGLdT3pBKXdFu25LmUxh0qI5385mPzL8jaJLnWP_s0

Pentecost, May 23 – SPECIAL TIME and Zoom link – **10:00 a.m.**

CUCC gathers to celebrate Pentecost 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 Pentecost Celebration**

Time: May 23, 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: ***Zoom information will be sent to you in the May 20th weekly email. Watch your inbox.***

CUCC Open House

Saturday, May 15, 3-5pm

Curious about what the fresh paint in the sanctuary looks like? Have you forgotten what your friends look like outside a Zoom square? Have questions about reopening the building? Join us for an open house to take a look around. We'll gather in the parking lot to chat, and small groups will go inside to see what's changed and what hasn't.



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Moderator Musings

Hi all,

Have you been missing the inside of the building? This month we're setting up some info sessions to take a look at the fresh paint and other repairs, and also to talk about how we'll handle seating, ventilation, and other issues when we start meeting in person again. No, we don't have a specific date for returning to in-person worship yet, but it's coming.

CLB is watching the statewide metrics as Illinois approaches the bridge phase, and a lot of people are doing a lot of thinking about how to gather safely, indoors, and out. We'll keep you posted with more announcements in the future.



~Elizabeth

Community United Church of Christ

Protocols for Reopening

Draft Date: April 15, 2021

As more becomes known about the coronavirus and cases begin to decline in our area, Community United Church of Christ (CUCC) has developed the following protocols for church activities. These protocols are subject to change at any time.

Small Group Interactions:

- CUCC groups (including those for kids and adults) of any size can gather outside. Masking and social distancing should continue.
- CUCC small groups (adults) can gather in the Parlor or Fellowship Hall using the marked off locations. Masking and social distancing should continue.
- Staff can return to the building. Masks and social distancing should continue to be observed at all times unless one person is alone in an office with a door that closes.
- Groups could meet in a restaurant subject to then-current Health Department limits. For example, the Bridge to Phase 5 limits groups to 10 or fewer people which may mean larger groups must wait until Phase 5.
- Choir can meet outside during the Bridge phase (masked and socially distanced). Singing indoors needs to wait until Phase 5 or when there is further guidance.
- Jubilee Café should continue offering drive-up service until Phase 5.

Returning to In-Person Worship:

- To return to in-person worship, we must be in the State of Illinois "Bridge to Phase 5" or Phase 5, and all adults must be eligible for a vaccine and vaccine appointments must be readily available.
- Masks and social distancing requirements continue in the Bridge phase.
- No congregational singing or group recitation until Phase 5.
- Vaccinated soloists can sing from the choir loft during the Bridge phase.
- The duration of the service will be 60 minutes or less until Phase 5.
- No hymnals, offering plates, shared sacraments, or physical contact until Phase 5.
- Post-worship socialization can take place outside; traditional coffee hour only in Phase 5.
- The "Bridge to Phase 5" has capacity limits of most venues set to 60%. For our sanctuary, that's 150 people. However, to maintain social distancing, we need to limit that to 100.
- During the Bridge phase, people will need to be seated by an usher and released by row.

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Important:

- All persons who are eligible for a vaccine are encouraged to get one.
- Any person who has COVID-19 symptoms, who has had a recent positive COVID-19 test, or who has had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home.
- Each person must make their own decision about attending a gathering of any size given their vaccination status, personal health history, underlying health conditions, and age.
- By entering CUCC, participating in a CUCC event, or using CUCC space, all attendees in any activity acknowledge that CUCC cannot guarantee that attendees will not become infected with the Coronavirus/COVID-19. Attendees understand that the risk of becoming exposed to and/or infected by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of anyone, including, but not limited to, CUCC staff, volunteers, other groups, or their families.

Resources:

- [A Bridge to Phase 5 \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov)
 - [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0616-fully-vaccinated.html)
 - [Considerations for Communities of Faith | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0616-fully-vaccinated.html)
-

Sound and Ethical Practices Team (SEP)

As we continue to look ahead toward possibly having more in-person activities, your Sound and Ethical Practices team (SEP) continues to review the evolving best practices recommended by the CDC and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRE) among others. These organizations suggest a layered approach that considers efforts to monitor and enforce:

- social distancing
- face masks worn consistently and correctly
- proper hand hygiene
- limited time exposure
- ventilation and filtration
- cleaning and sanitization

A key component of the recommendations related to our building is increased ventilation, specifically more fresh air. We are fortunate that during our remodel about 12 years ago we switched from having a boiler in our basement and steam pipes in the sanctuary to having a forced air furnace and air conditioning system. This system provides more circulation of air as well as the introduction of outside air. It also allows us to run the HVAC fans continuously such that even if heating or cooling is not needed, the system fans will still circulate the air. We also have ceiling fans in the sanctuary to aid with circulation.

That said, best practices call for opening windows in rooms for even greater ventilation. The windows on the parking lot side of the sanctuary do not allow fresh air into that space because there are external fiberglass coverings on those windows.

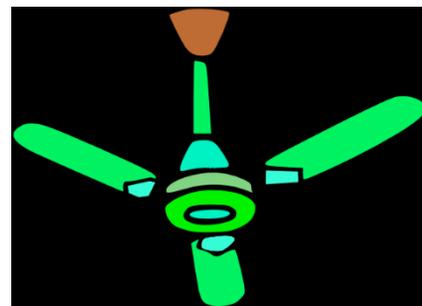
Similarly, Fellowship Hall has no outside windows. To work around these limitations and force in more outside air, there are specific doors and windows we'll leave open when these areas are in heavy use, and fans to pull in fresh air.

We've been asked if we use HEPA-grade furnace filters. We have 9 independent furnaces, and we change all filters on a regular cycle, but our furnaces are not designed for HEPA-level filtration. Placing a HEPA filter in a furnace not designed for one is a guaranteed way to buy a new furnace! That said, air filtration is of greater concern in smaller spaces with little ventilation or circulation. Fortunately, our sanctuary has 100,000+ cubic feet of air space.

Although research suggests COVID-19 spreads mainly through close contact from person to person, we also continue to have the building cleaned regularly and commercial sanitizers are used as a part of that regimen. We also have supplies on-hand for cleaning high-touch areas.

If you have specific questions, feel free to reach out to Kyle Mahannah @ krmahannah@gmail.com, Grant Robbennolt @ grantrobbennolt@hotmail.com, or Tom Ward @ wardt508@comcast.net

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Change to Pastor Leah's vacation time

In response to a joint request from the Pastoral Relations Committee and the Personnel Committee, the Church Life Board recently voted to extend Pastor Leah's number of weeks of paid vacation each year from four weeks to five weeks, effective immediately. Leah recently celebrated her eleventh anniversary with CUCC, and we are blessed by the ways she has served our congregation with energy, creativity, and deep commitment -- perhaps never more so than during this challenging pandemic time. Pastors do not live a 9-to-5 life and the work is never, ever left at the office. As a result, it's important for congregations to be aware of the challenges of pastoral work and the very real problem of burnout, which can affect both the pastor and the congregation. We view this change as one that will recognize Leah's outstanding service, provide her with additional, valuable breathing room, and benefit all of us. In addition, it will put CUCC's practices more in line with UCC guidance. If you have any questions about this change, feel free to contact Personnel Committee chair Anna Barnes at annabarnesmedia@gmail.com.

UPDATE

© Can Stock Photo

- Anna Barnes, chair, Personnel Committee (other committee members: Jon Ebel)
- Cara Finnegan, chair, Pastoral Relations Committee (other committee members: Joel Brotherton, Erin Ewoldt, Doug Irwin)
- Elizabeth Shack, moderator, Church Life Board

News from the Center for Spirituality and Faith – Stroll for Your Soul

Spring is finally here! Well, most of the time, anyway....



Maybe you need a little inspiration to get out there after the winter and start walking again now that warmer weather has come. Or maybe you are a regular walker, runner, or biker (or skateboarder!) who would like to be more mindful while you do those things. *Stroll for Your Soul* from the Prayer Bench offers 21 days of accompaniment through a brief early morning email offering a practice, reflection, poem, or photograph to help encourage and focus you as you get out and get moving. And 21 days is just the time that it typically takes to develop a new habit.

There is no cost to you to be part of *Stroll* (that's covered by our annual subscription funded by the John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith). And there's no limit to how many participants we can have, so you don't need to worry about "taking someone else's spot." But everyone who wants to participate needs to **register by May 10th**. You can register by sending your name and email address to Pastor Connie (connie@community-ucc.org) or the CUCC office (info@community-ucc.org). Then just sit back and watch for the first email from the Prayer Bench and get ready to stroll. The first email from Prayer Bench will arrive in your mailbox on **May 15th** and continue for the next **21 days**.



Prayer Bench annual participants—you will be signed up automatically, so you don't need to worry about registering. If you are interested in meeting up in person at a local park a few times during these 21 days, please let Pastor Connie know. Once we know who would like that, we can figure out a time and place.

~ Pastor Connie Bandy
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Campus Ministry

Queering Faith 4.0

For those of you who missed (or want to watch again) Queering Faith 4.0: Mythology and Futurism as Tools for Queer Theology, the video is now posted on YouTube. Speakers Taj M. Smith and Dr. Gabrielle M.W. Bychowski discuss how these elements typically reserved for fiction can actually be useful tools for creating a more just brilliant future for everyone. The talk is moderated by the magnificent Rev. Dr. Chris Davies. The link is here:

https://youtu.be/3o_ADxO2x7I?t=274

QUEERING FAITH 4.0:
Mythology and Futurism as Tools for Queer Theology

A conversation with Taj M. Smith & Dr. Gabrielle M.W. Bychowski as they discuss worldbuilding, sci-fi, and fantasy as tools for queer theology. Just like great writers create amazing worlds for us to explore, the same creativity, imagining, and play can be tools for crafting theological understandings that embrace and affirm queerness.

Bring your favorite fandom to the Q&A section and fly your nerd flags high!
Conversation moderated by
Rev. Dr. Chris Davies.

April 16th 7:00pm Central

Campus Ministry at
Community United
Church of Christ
LGBTQ Open & Affirming

Register Here: lu.ma/QF4.0

Congratulations to our Graduates

Jordan Blake Banks

Received a Fulbright Grant in 2019, is graduating with her master's degree in Energy Technology with a specialization in Bioenergy Systems from Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology in Finland. She will stay in Finland for the next few years and currently has a job for the summer working on a sustainability project.

Andy Contreras

has earned his Master of Science in Actuarial Science from the University of Illinois. He will be moving to Chicago after graduation.

Isaiah Greathouse

has earned his Associate of Arts degree in General Studies from the University of South Dakota. He plans to continue working for the Champaign Unit 4 School District.

And Future Campus Ministry Members

Phoebe Gerstenecker

After graduating from Urbana High School, Phoebe will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Quinn Gardner

After graduating from high school, Quinn plans to continue his studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Nikolas Gritten

Congratulations to Nikolas upon his high school graduation.

Lucah Kloster (formerly known as Alex formerly known as Corinne)

After graduating from high school, Lucah is heading to Illinois State University where they will be studying Information Systems.

All students completed their studies under pandemic restrictions and unprecedented conditions, and we are so very proud of them.

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Commissioned Minister of Health – Advanced Care Planning

It's been called "the best gift you can ever give your family". What is that you ask? It is taking time to document your wishes for your own "End of Life" care. Even though it's sometimes difficult to talk about, or even think about, letting your family and those close to you know what's important to you, can be so very helpful to them as you approach the end of your life's journey on earth, since you may not be able to express these wishes yourself at that time.

Need more information? A free Zoom webinar to explain this process is being offered by the Carle Faith Community Nurse program, with two sessions in May. It is free, (registration required), and open to the community. This program is called "Advanced Care Planning" and offers thought-provoking conversation and opportunity to learn how to prepare for future healthcare decisions like naming a healthcare power of attorney.

**It Always
Seems
Too Early,
Until It's
Too Late.**



Advance care planning is a process to:

- Understand possible, future health choices
- Reflect on these choices in light of the values and goals important to you
- Discuss your choices with those close to you and the health professionals who care for you
- Make a plan for future healthcare situations

Class dates/times/registration link:

Join Carle advance care planning facilitators for this Zoom event to learn more and get started. You'll find the events listed below along with the registration link.

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 (5:00 pm – 6:00 pm)

Thursday, May 27, 2021 (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)

[Events | Carle.org](#)

If you have further questions, or would like to discuss this process, please contact me. As a reminder, it is always helpful if you give a copy of your completed documents to Pastor Leah as well, so that your church family knows your wishes.

~ Linda Morgan, RN, BSN, Commissioned Minister of Health



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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	DREEM Driven to Reach Excellence & Academic Achievement for Males	Total Meals
3/26		48	48
3/29	64		64
4/2		0	0
4/5	69		69
4/9		45	45
4/12	54		54
4/16		60	60
4/19	68		68
4/23		50	50
4/26	51		51
Meals Served	306	203	509

3/29/2021 – Jubilee Café serves 10,000th meal



From Pastor Leah: When we opened tonight at Jubilee Cafe CUCC, I started counting to 19. Whomever snagged the nineteenth meal would be served Jubilee's 10,000th meal. When we opened, we had a line and a dozen meals went out the door in the blink of an eye. Govind, who was working outside tonight, convinced some ladies walking by to put in an order. Being new, they took their time filling out their menus. While they pondered all their options, some of our UCC Campus Ministry – UIUC students arrived, and filled out their menus in short order. A student working distribution ran downstairs and the

kitchen crew came up to be part of the celebration.

Andy Noble Contreras received Jubilee's **10,000th meal!** We all cheered! What an accomplishment. In addition to his meal, Andy received a lovely bouquet of daisies and roses, also from the food bank. We cheered, then everyone went back to work.

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Jubilee Café Update

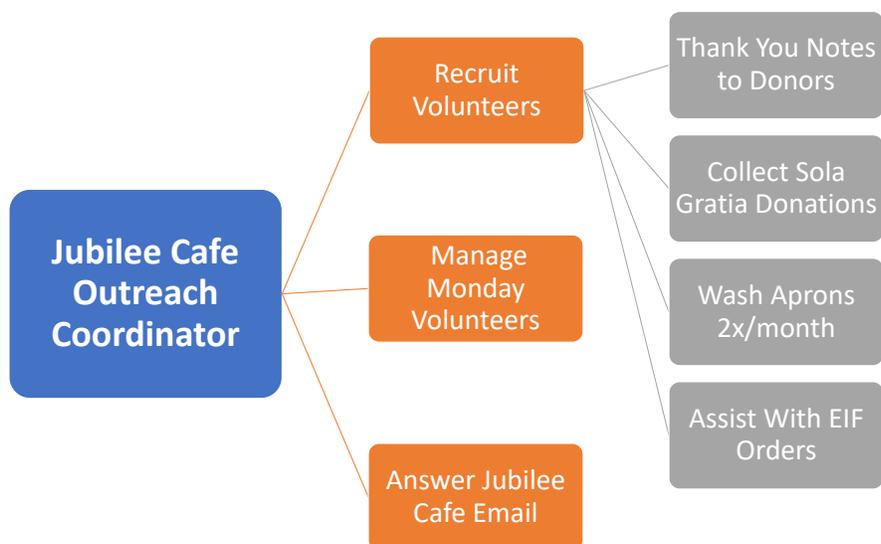
During the past 14 months, Jubilee Café has continued to serve a meal each Monday night. We made some changes during the pandemic, in order to keep our volunteers and guests as safe as possible. We even hit a milestone in late March by serving our 10,000th meal. That lucky guest was Andy Contreras, one of our Campus Ministry students.

As the Jubilee Café advisory board plans for our eventual return to in person dining, we find ourselves looking for some additional volunteers to help with tasks that go beyond the shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning after the meal.

Jubilee Café is need of an Outreach Coordinator. This person would then be help with three areas (please see chart):

- Recruit volunteers for a variety of tasks
- Respond to Jubilee Café email messages
- Manage the Monday volunteers to make sure they have all the information they need to volunteer.

If you're interested in helping with any of these tasks, please email Carla at info@community-ucc.org



Ministry Opportunities at CUCC Volunteers Needed

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up
Grounds Team	Grass Mowing	Matthew Hart	matthewlorenhart@gmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5AF2CA1FB6-weekly
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-liturgists2
Worship Team	Greeter	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters4
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



Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!
Saturday, May 1 – Monday, May 31



Saturday, May 1: Health & Wellness Ministry Team Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 8, 9:00am – 12:00pm: Spring Clean-up at CUCC

Sunday, May 9, 10:15am: Breakout Room during worship for Youth PreK – 5th grade

Monday, May 10, 3:00pm: Last day to register for *Stroll for Your Soul*

Monday, May 10, 5:00-6:30pm: CUPHD Pop Up COVID Vaccine Clinic – No Appointment Needed

Saturday, May 15, 9:00am: 1st Prayer Bench email delivered to those registered for *Stroll for Your Soul*

Saturday, May 15, 3:00pm – 5:00pm: CUCC Open House

Sunday, May 16, 1:30pm: Youth Group via Zoom

Monday, May 17, 3:00pm: Cards for CFC due to Church Office

Tuesday, May 18, 11:30am: Monthly Retirees' Luncheon at park weather permitting

Tuesday, May 18, 6:30pm: Church Life Board Meeting

Sunday, May 23, 10:00am: Joint **Pentecost** Celebration with Land of the Sky UCC and Greenpoint Reformed UCC

Sunday, May 30, 10:15am: *Strengthen the Church Offering* will be collected

Sunday, May 30, 10:15am: Blessing of the Pets during worship

Monday, May 31, 9:00am – 3:00PM: Memorial Day Office Closed

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



Mother's Day is
Sunday, May 9

Memorial Day
is Monday, May 31
Office Closed



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Weekly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC

Event	Day	Time	Meeting ID	Passcode	Join Zoom Meeting	Dial by Your Location
Worship	Sun	10:15AM	391 847 803	788969	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	https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SkIXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Evening Worship & Other Gatherings	Any	6:30PM	847 5319 7334	675757	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753197334?pwd=ZENQVDNjY0RQMWxNVXRjd2w3WDFVZz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Pub Theology	Mon	7:15PM	954 5707 0801	902078	https://illinois.zoom.us/j/95457070801?pwd=WmIBN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Choir	Wed	7:00PM	326 389 912	854849	https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZqRkl4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
CUCC Community Drop-In Hour	Thu	12PM (Noon)	947 196 457	735760	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	829 1216 9514	636040	https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTINUnR1SjlVUT09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
CUCC Retirees' Luncheon	Monthly 3 rd Tue	11:30AM	935 3696 7862	103227	https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTVIV	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



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Worship Ministry Seeking Liturgists and Greeters

The Worship Ministry Team is seeking Liturgists and Greeters for May and June. Volunteer for either or both positions by accessing the Sign-Up Genius Links below.



Liturgist: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgists2>

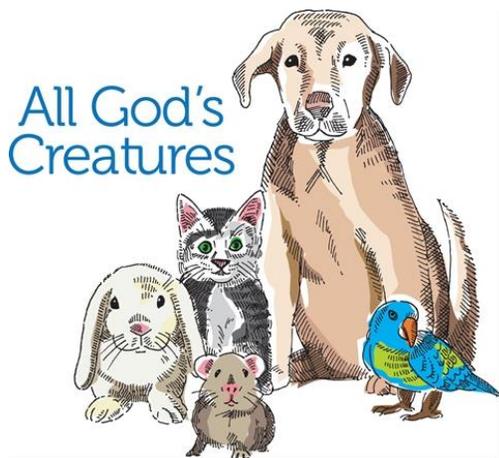
The liturgist can choose to lead the liturgy live (Call to Worship and reading Scripture) or by recording it ahead of time and submitting a video. Directions are provided.

Greeter: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters4>

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



Blessing of the Pets



The Worship Team is hosting a Pet Blessing on Sunday, May 30, 2021 during Worship. Have your pet close at hand so you can bring Fido or Fluffy into camera view for the Blessing at the appointed time.



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Mission Ministry Team

Your Mission Team wants to thank you for your speedy responses to our **survey** in April! We presented you with 13 local groups which we thought fit with our church's values and identity and asked you to narrow down where we should focus our first efforts to build some local partnerships for mission. Your voices came in loud and strong for 3 of these groups: Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), The UPCenter, and Los Caminos. We are excited to pursue contact with these three groups to discover how we might partner with them and support them! By the time you read this, we hope those ideas will already be brewing!

If you resonate more with one of the other groups, never fear! If an opportunity arises with one of these groups which seems a good fit for our congregation, we'll definitely check it out to see how we might be of service. Which leads us to.... our **underwear collection for Canteen Run!** As you know, we have already provided about 100 pairs of men's underwear to be distributed to members of our community who need them through the Canteen Run's weekly trips through Champaign-Urbana. Barb Davies, one of the organizers of Canteen Run, recently let us know that they need continued donations in this area. So, we will continue to collect men's underwear, sizes M through 3XL, and will periodically drop those off for Canteen Run. If you see a sale when you are shopping, you know what to do!

Next, we want to tell you about an upcoming offering for the national UCC. The national body of the UCC has 5 annual offerings, and we at CUCC like to participate in each one of those. **The Strengthen the Church Offering** will be taken on Sunday, May 30th (or on the 2 weeks following if you aren't with us that Sunday). This offering builds up the UCC by providing resources for the UCC to be a Spirit-Inspired and world-changing Christian movement. It supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation. In the weeks leading up to the offering, we'll present more specifics, but we hope you will find that you are able to participate!

Letters and Cards Needed for CFC! Just a reminder to please take a minute to support the members of the other church that worships in our building, CFC. Most of the members of CFC are of Asian heritage, and in light of the many recent (and not so recent) hate crimes against Asian people in the US, we wanted them to know that we at CUCC support them and care about the trauma they may be experiencing. If possible, write a brief card or letter of support to "members of CFC" **by May 17th**, send it to the church or drop it off, and Carla will accumulate and pass them on to the leaders of CFC.

Finally, our team is always happy to have more of you **join us!** At present, we meet every other Tuesday at 5:00 on zoom for a short meeting to look at opportunities and plan for next steps. If mission is something you care about, and you'd like to join us, please let us know! We'd love to have your ideas and help!

Thanks!

Jeanne Ward, Kristy Brownfield, and Ramona Oswald



CUCC Grounds – Spring Cleanup



Hi folks. We will be having another spring cleanup day this year at CUCC. It will be on Saturday May 8th from 9am until noon. It will involve raking, bagging yard waste, weeding, and maybe even some roofing (of the shed).

If you wish to join us in this effort, please go to the following sign-up genius and add your name.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5AF2CA1FB6-spring>

Please note that you will still need to be masked and try and social distance.

Thanks, Matthew Hart

Hi folks, many of you will remember that a few weeks back I mentioned that I would be re-roofing the shed at the church this spring and I had asked for people to contribute old roofing supplies to the church.

I want to thank Patti Gropp and Grant Robbennolt for giving me the shingles, (wait – that sounded wrong) that is to say, for providing much of the needed supplies for getting the job done. For anyone interested in helping with the roof we may be at least starting the project on Saturday, May 8th as part of the spring clean-up event - weather permitting. Be sure to go to the sign-up genius -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5AF2CA1FB6-spring> if you wish to secure a spot on the crew.

~Matthew Hart
Grounds



CUCC Grounds – Lawn Care



Hi folks! Time to start thinking about lawn care at CUCC and the adjacent property (510 E. Daniel). About once a week there is a need for mowing and trash pickup at the church. It usually takes me about 45 minutes to an hour. I have created a sign-up genius for those eager volunteers who might be willing to help. This summer I will have a particular need for assistance since Ann and I will be vacationing for a couple weeks in June and I am going to have some rotator cuff surgery sometime towards the end of the summer. There is a gas mower in the shed at the church that you can use, or you can bring over your own mower if you prefer. You can access the sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5AF2CA1FB6-weekly>

Please consider helping if you are able.

Thank you,
Matthew Hart
Grounds
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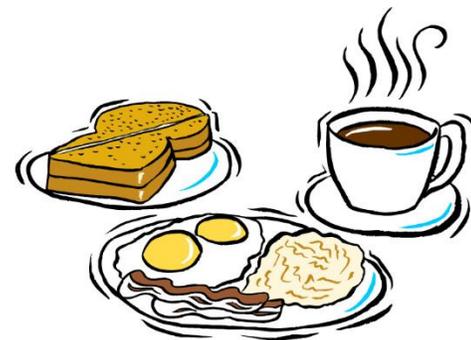
Sola Gratia Farm Annual Spring Plant Sale!



Sola Gratia Farm, a Jubilee Café partner, located at 2200 S. Philo Road, Urbana, IL is having their annual spring plant sale just in time for spring garden planting and Mother's Day! Large variety of organically grown veggies, herbs, and some perennial fruits plus locally sourced flowers including hanging baskets, potted, perennials and bedding. May 7-16, 9a-5p daily. Cash, checks, and credit accepted! COVID precautions will be followed including required masks and social distancing, enhanced sanitation and increased spacing of displays.

Men's Breakfast

All men/those identifying as men are invited to the Men's Breakfast on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00AM. We are currently doing a Zoom breakfast each month until it is safe for all of us to meet in person again. In May, we will be meeting on May 6.



Topic: **Men's Breakfast**

Time: May 6, 2021 7:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTlNUnR1SjlVUT09>

Meeting ID: **829 1216 9514**

Passcode: **636040**

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

~Tom Ward

wardt508@comcast.net

Retiree's Zoom Lunch

Our next CUCC Retiree's lunch will be **Tuesday, May 18, 11:30 a.m.** We are hoping that the weather will permit us to eat out at a park...stay tuned!

-Roger & Peg



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Community Building/Hospitality News

The Hospitality Team sent out a birthday announcement survey last month asking CUCCer's if they would like to have their birthday (month only) announced in church during their birthday month. We were pleased to have over 75 responses. We have begun announcing birthdays of the month on the first Sunday of each month during the Commissioning of the Community portion of the Sunday worship service. The announcements include only names, no specific dates. It's not too late to add your name(s) to the list. Just send your name(s) and birth month(s) to the church office at info@community-ucc.org and we will add you to the list.



We also have been working in the upstairs kitchen - cleaning out and re-organizing the kitchen and the kitchen storage room. It is a work in progress, but hopefully when we get it finished and everything is labeled, it will be more efficient to use and we all will be able to find things easier in the future.

Peg and Randy

Health and Wellness

We will meet as a committee on May 1st to plan up-coming events. We welcome 2 new members to our group. They are Lance Larkin and Johnalene Radek.

If there are topics you would like for us to consider, please let me know or anyone on this committee.

Our members are Douglas Irwin, Linda Morgan, Brin Schuler, Chelsey Byers/Gerstenecker, Lance Larkin, and Johnalene Radek.

Thanks, Doug



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