



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

## e-Communigram

Volume 60, Issue 6 – June 1 - 30

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

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## Letters from Leah

*"Tell me, what is it you plax to do with your one wild and precious life?" – Mary Oliver*

Summer has always been a time of wonder for me. We lived out in the country. I'm an only child and while we did have neighbors, none of the kids were my age, except for that mean boy who lived next door, and so, my days were often spent exploring outside alone. I may have been by myself, but I wasn't alone – I had the whole sky and the birds and the fields to keep me company. Every day when I set out, I'd have choices to make....where should I go? What should I explore? Maybe I'll go down the hill to the bridge and see if I can find crawdads or minnows in the creek. Or, should I ride a ways down the busy road to the neighborhood across the cornfield? The traffic makes me nervous, but the risk is worth it because as soon as I turn the corner, that's where Norm Webber lives and he has an acre right there on the corner filled with llamas and peacocks. There's small building off the road with windows. For a while, he even owned a monkey who lived in that little house! Or if I don't feel like riding my bike, I could watch the ants, or collect cicada shells. I could race leaves down the ditch or see if my feet can touch the branch above my swing. I loved watching storms roll in from the west across the cornfield, the smell of rain, and seeing the lightning bugs rise at night. I always said I was going to wake up early to watch the sun rise, but rarely made it. Regardless, every new day brought a new adventure.

There were plenty of memories to be made with my cousins too down on the farm. We'd explore the barns, play giant games of our own version of Capture the Flag, a game we called King's Crown, which was far more adventurous and exciting. Maybe Grandma would take us out into the garden to pick tomato worms off the plants, or down the south path to pick black raspberries. There'd be trips to the living farm at Lincoln State Park, campfires, and hikes to the fire tower where we could see for miles over the treetops, homemade ice cream and strawberries, and Fourth of July cook outs at a cousins' house in Vincennes to see the fireworks. I especially remember being terribly excited when, at the end of each of those fireworks displays, waiting patiently, peering over the Wabash, through the darkness, until at long last someone on the Illinois shore would light an American flag made of sparklers. I thought that was the most magical thing.

Summer also meant going to the library to get arm loads of books. It was always so quiet and so cold in our little public library. I loved the smell of the books and the *click-CLICK* sound of the librarian's stamper. Plus, our library had a gigantic globe that sat in a wooden cradle. You could turn the globe every which way to find new places that, maybe, someday I'd get to visit. If you turned the globe to southern Indiana, you'd find a finger-sized indentation where Jasper is supposed to be. But I never spun the globe to our tiny town. I knew where it was – I wanted to wander.

Summer is filled with awe and wonder. Perhaps now that you are vaccinated, it's filled with a little more wandering, too. What's on your summer wonder list? What would you add? Stopping to smell the roses, stargazing, and sunsets on the prairie are at the top of my list. Perhaps you will take up a practice of praying outside or playing in the rain this year. No matter how you spend your summer, I hope you'll take some time each day to stop, to breathe in and out, and give thanks to God for this one "wild and precious life".

Blessings,  
Leah



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



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## Special Announcement from your Church Life Board

Sunday, May 23, 2021 following worship we made a special announcement that on Thursday, May 20, 2021 the Church Life Board voted to terminate CUCC's lease agreement with Covenant Fellowship Church, or CFC, effective on or before June 20. As of the morning of May 23, 2021 they are no longer using our building.

During the week of May 17, 2021, we learned of public allegations about incidents at CFC. We also learned that their leadership made a public statement acknowledging that something had happened. We consulted with our UCC national and Illinois Conference offices, our insurance company, and lawyers, and while we don't know what actually happened, based on these two pieces of public information, we are no longer comfortable renting space out to CFC.

We cannot judge the truth of what has happened. However, those two public pieces of information are enough for us to say that we have to distance ourselves from CFC. We are saddened both because of these allegations and because this has been a long relationship.

If you have been in our building and experienced anything with CFC that needs to be communicated, please contact Pastor Leah right away. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Leah or Elizabeth or members of the Church Life Board.

At our June meeting your CLB will be examining the financial impact of the termination on our church's finances and will be communicating with you about that.

~ Elizabeth Shack, Church Life Board Moderator

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## Moderator Musings

Summer is my favorite season. I love not having to think about whether I need a jacket and soaking in all the sunlight. And this is almost certain to be a better summer than last year's. There's still a lot up in the air, but we can look forward to outdoor worship and other fun activities.

It was wonderful to see so many people stop by for last month's open house. We continue to monitor metrics--everything seems to be getting better quickly--and vaccination availability, including for young children.

~Elizabeth



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## Worship in the Park

We will gather for worship and communion Sunday, at Ambucs Park 1776 E Washington St, Urbana, IL 61802, Sunday, June 6, 2021, at 10:15am in the pavilion.

Bring a lawn chair if you wish. Be sure to put your sunscreen on. Wear your mask.

Since it is communion Sunday, bring something to pour (grape juice, coffee, soda, water) and something to break (bread, cracker, etc.). No other food please.

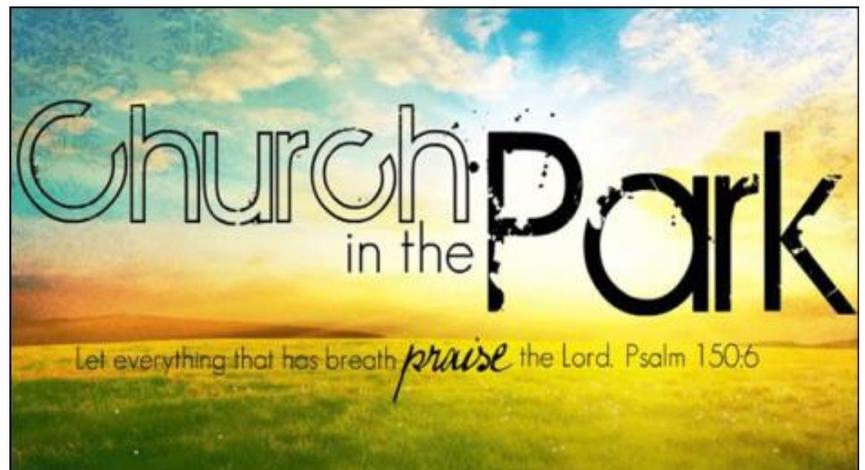
Local folks come greet your CUCC friends in person, worship God with all creation while enjoying the great outdoors.

For those of you who worship with us on Facebook, we will attempt to stream worship live from the park. However, if technology does not work well, we will record worship and post it later in the day for you to watch at your convenience.

We hope many of you will join us at the park Sunday.

In the event of a weather event preventing us from worshipping in the park, join us on Zoom as usual at 10:15am for worship and communion.

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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 | DREAM<br>Driven to Reach<br>Excellence & Academic<br>Achievement for Males | Total<br>Meals |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| 5/3/2021            | 70                       | 54   | <b>124</b>     |
| 5/10/2021           | 54                       | 0  | <b>54</b>      |
| 5/17/2021           | 70                       | 0  | <b>70</b>      |
| 5/24/2021           | 55                       | 0  | <b>55</b>      |
| 5/31/2021           | 37                       | 0  | <b>37</b>      |
| <b>Meals Served</b> | <b>286</b>               | <b>54</b>  | <b>340</b>     |



5/10/2021 – From Pastor Leah’s *Tonight’s Jubilee Cafe report* 54 people ate tonight AND several people got vaccinated, including folks who told us they traveled here to get their shots tonight, having seen our vaccine clinic advertised online. They had no idea they’d get dinner, too. We are grateful to the Champaign Public Health District for making it so easy for people to get the shots.

Every shot in every arm means a healthier, safer community for everyone. Getting vaccinated is a way for you to love your neighbor and yourself!

If you are part of a faith community, check with your public health department to see if you can host a covid-vaccine clinic. Raising awareness is another critical thing we can do.

5/17/2021 – From Pastor Leah’s *Tonight’s Jubilee Cafe report*: When Campus Ministry alum Andrew walked up, I sent word down to the CUCCers in the kitchen who all came upstairs to say hi. We love our Campus Ministry students and are so glad to see them when they come home to see us, home being their home away from home of CUCC and UCC Campus Ministry.



5/3/2021 – From Pastor Leah’s *Tonight’s Jubilee Cafe report*: Also, we dispatched Pastor Nate Brantingham out to deliver donuts to a gaggle of college women on one of those bar bikes. How those are legal in a pandemic, I’m not quite sure, but they were super appreciative of the donuts.

5/10/2021 – Both Pastor Nate and Pastor Leah delivered donuts to the gaggle of college men on one of those bar bikes and they were very appreciative of the donuts. Pastor Leah walked away with a financial donation for the donuts she delivered.

## Ministry Opportunities at CUCC Volunteers Needed

| CUCC Team                  | Opportunity                                  | Contact                         | Contact Info   | Online Sign-Up  |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Grounds Team</b>        | Grass Mowing                                 | Matthew Hart                    | <a href="mailto:matthewlorenhart@gmail.com">matthewlorenhart@gmail.com</a>   | <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5AF2CA1FB6-weekly">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A5AF2CA1FB6-weekly</a>   |
| <b>Worship Team</b>        | Edit Videos                                  | Office Admin                    | <a href="mailto:Info@community-ucc.org">Info@community-ucc.org</a>   |   |
| <b>Worship Team</b>        | Technical Help                               | Office Admin                    | <a href="mailto:infor@community-ucc.org">infor@community-ucc.org</a>   |   |
| <b>Worship Team</b>        | Liturgist                                    | Chase Skye<br>Susan Pawlicki    | <a href="mailto:chaseskye7@gmail.com">chaseskye7@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a> | <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgists2">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgists2</a>   |
| <b>Worship Team</b>        | Greeter                                      | Chase Skye or<br>Susan Pawlicki | <a href="mailto:chaseskye7@gmail.com">chaseskye7@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a> | <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters4">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters4</a>   |
| <b>Worship Team</b>        | Hymn Leaders<br>& Other Music<br>for Worship | Music Director                  | <a href="mailto:music@community-ucc.org">music@community-ucc.org</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> |
| <b>Summer Music</b>        | Music and<br>Hymns for<br>Summer<br>Worship  | Office Admin                    | <a href="mailto:Info@community-ucc.org">Info@community-ucc.org</a>   | <a href="https://forms.gle/5ZbT1KhYtgRj3sqx6">https://forms.gle/5ZbT1KhYtgRj3sqx6</a>   |
| <b>Prayer Team</b>         | Team Member                                  | Office Admin                    | <a href="mailto:Info@community-ucc.org">Info@community-ucc.org</a>   |   |
| <b>Children's Ministry</b> | Event<br>Planner/Leader                      | Julie McClure                   | <a href="mailto:jemclure4@gmail.com">jemclure4@gmail.com</a>   |   |
| <b>Jubilee Café</b>        | Meal Prep,<br>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>   |



## Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!

Tuesday, June 1 – Wednesday, June 30



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

Sunday, June 6, 10:15am: Worship in the park at Ambucs Park

Monday, June 7, 7:15pm: Pub Theology begins their new book *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*

Tuesday, June 15, 11:30am: Monthly Retirees' Luncheon at local restaurant

Tuesday, June 15, 6:30pm: Church Life Board 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 | Join Zoom Meeting   | Dial by Your Location           |
|--|-----|----------------|---------------|----------|---|---------------------------------|
| Worship  | Sun | 10:15AM        | 391 847 803   | 788969   | <a href="https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09">https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09</a>                       | +1 312 626 6799<br>US (Chicago) |
| Youth Group<br>(6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade) | Sun | 1:30PM         | 402 056 418   | 578953   | <a href="https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SklXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09">https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SklXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09</a>                       | +1 312 626 6799<br>US (Chicago) |
| Evening Worship &<br>Other Gatherings                    | Any | 6:30PM         | 847 5319 7334 | 675757   | <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753197334?pwd=ZENQVDNjY0RQMWxNVXRjd2w3WDFVZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753197334?pwd=ZENQVDNjY0RQMWxNVXRjd2w3WDFVZz09</a>   | +1 312 626 6799<br>US (Chicago) |
| Pub Theology   | Mon | 7:15PM         | 954 5707 0801 | 902078   | <a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/95457070801?pwd=Wm1BN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/95457070801?pwd=Wm1BN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09</a> | +1 312 626 6799<br>US (Chicago) |
| Choir  | Wed | 7:00PM         | 326 389 912   | 854849   | <a href="https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZqRkl4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09">https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZqRkl4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09</a>                       | +1 312 626 6799<br>US (Chicago) |
| CUCC Community<br>Drop-In Hour                           | Thu | 12PM<br>(Noon) | 947 196 457   | 735760   | <a href="https://zoom.us/j/947196457">https://zoom.us/j/947196457</a>   | +1 312 626 6799<br>US (Chicago) |

## Monthly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC

|                            |                                |         |                  |        |   |                                 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|------------------|--------|---|---------------------------------|
| Men's Breakfast            | Monthly<br>1st Thu             | 7:00AM  | 829 1216 9514    | 636040 | <a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTINUnR1SjlVUT09">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTINUnR1SjlVUT09</a> | +1 312 626 6799 US<br>(Chicago) |
| CUCC Retirees'<br>Luncheon | Monthly<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue | 11:30AM | 935 3696<br>7862 | 103227 | <a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTVIV">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTVIV</a>               | +1 312 626 6799 US<br>(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.



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## A note from your Music Director

### Summer Music Opportunities

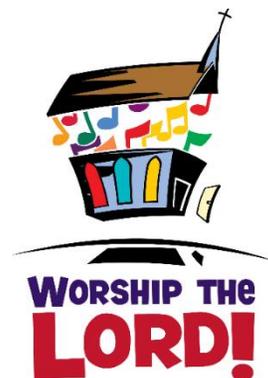
Dear CUCC friends,

Our CUCC choir has done a fantastic job offering music for our congregation throughout the pandemic. For anyone interested in joining choir for our final month of May, contact me to join a Wednesday Zoom rehearsal, share a hymn or song, or to join us for outdoor, masked singing on a Sunday afternoon!

As some of you know, our choir and my role as Music Director pause from mid-May to mid-August each year. This summer, we will use a combination of newly recorded music and music we have already created for hymn and anthem spots for virtual services. Music will function primarily without my involvement over the summer, as my music contributions over the summer are as a volunteer.

All ages and ability levels are welcome to offer summer music at CUCC. Please remember that all of our musical offerings are a gift for our congregation and God. Participation is more important than perfection, and songs can be spiritual without fitting the typical definition of "religious music". I encourage you to think outside the box and offer something! If you would like to contribute to a musical offering this summer, please fill out this form, and I will be in touch to discuss options: <https://forms.gle/5ZbT1KhYtgRj3sqx6>

Please contact me with questions: [music@community-ucc.org](mailto:music@community-ucc.org). Thank you so much!



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## Mission Ministry Team

### From Your Mission Team:

Hi Everyone!

So much is happening! We want to share several opportunities with you. Please read on to find out how you can become involved in sharing your gifts.



1. **Sharing Local Involvement:** After seeing the word cloud following Pastor Nate’s sermon a few weeks ago, regarding causes for which each of us has “labored long”, one of our CUCC members voiced that it would be cool if we could find a way to share those things in a more visible way with the congregation. We know that so many of you are individually involved with local mission through a variety of projects and organizations. We would like to start a series of mission moments during the church service, at which members could share a short explanation of a cause, project, or mission with which they are involved. We are visualizing about a 3-minute share, during which you could tell about the cause, project, or mission, and how you are involved. Basically, it would be a way both to find out more about all the things our members are participating in, and also providing the congregation with a person of whom they could ask further questions to find out more. **If you would be willing to share one of the things you are involved with, could you give us a phone call or e-mail us?** Our contact info is at the bottom of this article.
2. **Racial Justice:** As you may remember, the Showing Up for Racial Justice group in C-U was the top vote getter in our recent local mission interest survey. While we will be sharing more about involvement opportunities in SURJ at a later date, there is a related opportunity right now that we want you to know about! Rev. Michael Crosby, the pastor at the local Mennonite Church in C-U has invited members of our church to collaborate with them during the summer months in an exploration of a curriculum recently developed by the Mennonite Church USA, entitled “Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum”. The introduction to the course states “The curriculum offers an in-depth, faith-based study of the history of modern policing, the policies and practices of incarceration in the U.S., and the racial inequities in our systems -- all through the lens of God’s desire for safe, flourishing communities and the framework of historically Christian abolitionist movements for justice and peace.” We encourage you to click on the link below to find out more. This link takes you to an exploration of what the study would entail, how we would be organized, and includes a link to the curriculum itself so you can see it for yourself. If you think you might



Cover art for the free police abolition curriculum published by Mennonite Church USA

want to participate, the link includes an interest form to fill out and submit, so you will be in on further information. Please do this by the first week of June.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPphiVvLurCyMXu1hqQdxzptnsXHQRyrDELnSEXkP3k7Uhw/viewform>

3. **El Caminos:** Be watching for further information in June about how we might become involved with the El Caminos program operating as part of Cunningham Children’s Home. We have received a list of needs for the migrant children whom they serve and hope to share more information with you in the near future.

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4. Underwear Collection Continues: We continue our collection of men's underwear in sizes M – 3XL for Canteen Run, a local organization which serves the poor in our community as they make weekly runs through the community. If you see underwear on sale, please pick some up and bring it by the church or contact one of us to arrange a pickup time.
5. Strengthen the Church Offering: If you haven't yet made your contribution to the national UCC Strengthen the Church offering, it's not too late to do so. We will continue to accept donations through Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. You can either donate using the drop-down menu on the donate link on the church website, or feel free to write a check to CUCC, using Strengthen the Church in the memo line. We are grateful for your donations, and others will be as well.

Thanks for your involvement!

Jeanne Ward [jeawa@comcast.net](mailto:jeawa@comcast.net) 217-840-0668

Kristy Brownfield [klmel04@gmail.com](mailto:klmel04@gmail.com) 217-246-8571

Ramona Oswald [roswald@illinois.edu](mailto:roswald@illinois.edu) 217-649-9651

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## Renewal Through Partnership

**T**he Strengthen the Church Offering provided crucial support to congregations and their community partners during the Covid Pandemic. Moving forward, grants from the Strengthen the Church offering will help congregations pivot towards church renewal and community engagement.

Plymouth Congregational Church in Lawrence, Kansas, partnered with the Haskell Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit whose sole mission is to support Haskell Indian Nations University, to address the needs of Haskell students during the pandemic.

Covid-19 deeply affected Indigenous people. The students and staff of Haskell suffered hardships. One Navajo student received help for an emergency flight and quarantine accommodations because he needed to return to bury five family members.

Plymouth continued to aid students throughout the year. Sara Tallafarro, of Plymouth, explained, "One young Lakota woman traveled back from her reservation to off-campus housing in Lawrence, KS, last September. Her car broke down on the way. She had managed to scrape together the first month's rent and deposit for the off-campus apartment. But she had to spend her rent money on car repairs. Emergency funds helped her make the rent deposit, so she had a place to live when she got back here."

Drawing on her 25-years of work with people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, Sara knew, "complex community problems can't be fixed with a simple checklist of actions." Instead, the congregation focused on developing meaningful community relationships on the Haskell campus. Sara worked closely with Manny King (Northern Cheyenne), a university counselor. Even as they help specific students, Sara and Manny build the kind of community solidarity that affects lasting change.

**The renewal of our congregations takes many forms. In Lawrence, Kansas, it meant forming meaningful relationships to support students affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic.**



*Through this partnership, people gathered to honor those who have died from the coronavirus. The photo shows tobacco that will be offered during prayers by placing it in the fire. Many people participated in the ceremony virtually.*

**Gifts to the  
Strengthen the Church Offering  
Renew the  
United Church of Christ.**



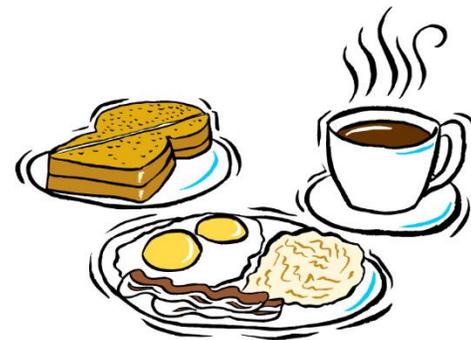
## CUCC Grounds – Spring Cleanup Pictures Roofing the Shed



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## 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 June 3.



Topic: **Men's Breakfast**

Time: June 3, 2021 7:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTlUNnR1SjlVUT09>

Meeting ID: **829 1216 9514**

Passcode: **636040**

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

~Tom Ward

[wardt508@comcast.net](mailto:wardt508@comcast.net)

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## Pub Theology

***Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*** by Emmanuel Acho

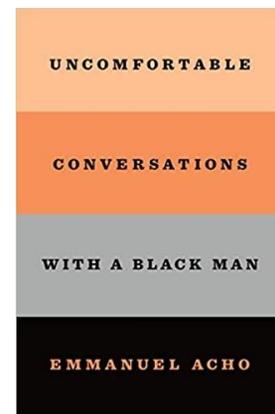
Pub Theology is about to start our next book on June 7. In *Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man*, Acho takes on all the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask—yet which all Americans need the answers to, now more than ever. "You cannot fix a problem you do not know you have." So begins Acho in his essential guide to the truths Americans need to know to address the systemic racism that has recently electrified protests in all fifty states. "One of the most common examples of white talk is calling Affirmative Action reverse racism...I repeat: There is no such thing as reserve racism."

If you would like to join us for this read, please let me know and I will add you to our mailing list. It looks like a real interesting read.

~Tom

Tom Ward

[wardt508@comcast.net](mailto:wardt508@comcast.net)



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## CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group

The retirees met Tuesday, May 18th in the Parlor for a bring your own lunch and fun conversation gathering. We had planned to meet at the Burwash Park pavilion, but unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate again. Fortunately, though, the wet & windy weather did not deter folks from joining the group in the Parlor. We had eleven retirees attend and we talked about upcoming travel plans, foods that others like that we do not like, and we also shared stories about funny things that happened at weddings that we have attended - or some at our own wedding. There were lots and lots of laughs and stories shared! (Thanks, Patty, for suggesting these topics). For our June lunch (Tuesday, June 15th), we are hoping to meet outside at a local restaurant.



~ Peg and Roger Wade

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## Children and Family Ministry

Hi CUCC families!

It's been a wild year, but I've been so encouraged by every online interaction with your kiddos. As a church, we will be making decisions soon about what the next several months will look like, including for kids and Sunday School, so be on the lookout for opportunities to offer your input.

I'm planning to take a break from breakout rooms this summer, as we typically take a break from regular curriculum during this time, but would like to arrange a few in person outdoor gatherings for the kids this summer, either as a fun activity for just kids and their families, or in conjunction with an outdoor worship service. If you have ideas or suggestions, or if you'd like to help plan an activity, please email me at [jemclure4@gmail.com](mailto:jemclure4@gmail.com).

~Julie McClure

## Looking for a Missing Creche

Ruth Fisher's daughter Meg is asking for our help. While here in town cleaning out her mother's apartment, she is not finding a wooden creche that she gifted her mother over the years. She knows that Ruth brought the creche to church to be used several years and is wondering if anyone remembers where the creche may be today. I am making my way through the church building looking for it, however, if you have any knowledge of the whereabouts of the creche we would certainly appreciate hearing from you. Also if you could take a peek at your Christmas decorations and see if the creche may have ended up at your place accidentally, we would appreciate if it was returned to the church as soon as possible.

Here is how Meg describes the creche:

The pieces are made of a pale, blonde wood, and the wood has been hand painted. For example, Mary is dressed in blue, Joseph in brown, a piping shepherd in green (?), the camel brown, the donkey gray... The human figures stand maybe 5 or 6 inches high. It has many carved pieces: Mary, Joseph, Christ child in manger, stable animals, camel, angels, three wise men, each piece is stamped Ostheimer on the bottom, carved in Germany.



Examples of Joseph and Mary figures found on Ostheimer's website today.

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## Pride Month

If there's one thing we do this Pride season, I hope that each of us guard our joy. It is important for Black LGBTQ+/SGL people to celebrate Pride in spite of what our community endured. 2021 has been a hard year for many of us in the Black LGBTQ+/SGL community, physically, mentally, and spiritually--that is for those of us who have made it through. From the continued murders of Black trans women, to a recent surge in anti-LGBTQ bills in state legislators, to a global pandemic that continues to disproportionately affect our community, we are fighting on many fronts. In spite of the many challenges, we continue to face, we must continue to fight for freedom and snatch joy where we can....

We celebrate Father's Day; giving flowers (and cigars) to all the male and masculine-identified people who serve as parental figures. We also acknowledge that this day, and days like it, are difficult for some members of our community. We see you and hope you're able to find ways to hold on to joy.

It's also Black Music Month and music has always been a powerful part of our legacy. It's in that spirit that we're excited to share our [playlist](#) curated by attendees of last month's event honoring Black Women Legendary Elders.

In whatever ways you decide to celebrate these important events please be sure to guard your joy!

*An excerpt from Executive Director David J. Johns' Team National Black Justice Coalition newsletter*

## Movement for Black Lives - Reparations Month of Action

Throughout the month of June, the Movement for Black Lives will host a series of political education events about reparations- what they are, why we need them, and how we can win them. Look out for more details at [www.m4bl.org](http://www.m4bl.org). Each week has a different reparation related theme shown below:

- **May 31st - June 6th** | Policing and other White Nationalist Vigilante Violence (Honoring May 25th uprising after George Floyd's murder, Tulsa, and Chicago reparations for police violence)
- **June 7th - June 13th** | Climate and Environmental Justice Reparations
- **June 14- June 18th** | Reparations for the War on Drugs/(June 17th is the 50th Anniversary)
- **June 19th - June 25th** | Reparations from the Legacy of Slavery (in association with [#breathewithme](#))
- **June 26th - June 30th** | Housing and Economic Justice Reparations

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Contact CUCC:

805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL. 61820 | 217-344-5091 | [www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org) | email: [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org)  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday | 9am - 3pm