



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-Communigram

Volume 60, Issue 8 – August 1 - 31

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

[Letters from Leah](#) • [Moderator Musings](#) • [Insights into In-Person Worship](#) • [Amazon Smile](#) • [Pastor Leah on Vacation](#) • [Worship in the Park](#) • [The Fifth Annual Interfaith Alliance Picnic](#) • [Campus Ministry](#) • [CUCC Garage Sale](#) • [Jubilee Café](#) • [Drivers Needed for Jubilee Cafe Food To Go Deliveries](#) • [UCC General Synod Summary](#) • [Ministry Opportunities at CUCC](#) • [Upcoming One-Time Events](#) • [Weekly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC](#) • ["I've Been Meaning to Ask" –worship series continues](#) • [Worship Ministry Seeking Liturgists and Greeters](#) • [A note from your Music Director](#) • [Mission Ministry Team](#) • [Jubilee Farm](#) • [Pub Theology](#) • [Men's Breakfast](#) • [CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group](#) • [Individuals Together](#) • [Community Building and Hospitality Team](#) • [Children and Family Ministry](#) • [Youth Group](#) • [Allerton Park](#) • [The Uniting Pride Center is Seeking Input](#)



Letters from Leah

"I was glad when they said, let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122 begins. This Psalm, the refrain of ancient people as they made their way to Jerusalem on pilgrimage, keeps ringing in my ears. How glad are we (so many of us, that is) to be GOING to the house of the Lord for worship beginning August 8? This is also true: how glad are we (so many of us as well) to be able to participate from our own homes in worship being streamed from the house of the Lord. Both sentiments are true in our congregation – both are reasons to be glad! Both are reasons to be grateful.

Psalm 122 moves from this jubilation immediately to the practical, to the real. Verse 2 says, "Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem," and we wonder where those feet have been. Over what roads have they traveled to get here, to this place? On August 8, we might wonder the same about our own feet, and the feet of our neighbor sitting 6 feet away for us in the sanctuary. We might wonder the same about the feet of our neighbor sitting somewhere in Champaign-Urbana, who needs to worship from home for any number of reasons, or about the feet of our neighbor sitting in another state, or another country. We would do well to think of where those feet have traveled throughout these pandemic days. What troubles have they faced? What griefs, what losses? What celebrations have they had since we last celebrated in this space? What burdens do those feet carry into this sacred space? What joys? What sorrows?

Psalm 122 continues on weaving together sacred concerns with the communal, naming the law, politics, and justice in the lyrics. This song of the pilgrims reminds us, as we make our way to the house of the Lord, that we live in a complex and complicated, relational world. In the end, this hymn of prayer and praise calls for peace – inner peace, the peace of the community gathered, and the peace of the wider world. Pilgrims were called to return to the house of the Lord for their own fulfillment, but not solely. They were called back to the house of the Lord so that they might carry the peace of God back out into the world they inhabited. The trip back to the temple acted as a reset on their very lives, connecting them deeply with their community, reinvigorating their practices of their faith that shaped their everyday actions and interactions. May it hold true for us as well.

People of God, you have journeyed long and far in unexpected ways over the last 18 months. We are being called back to the house of the Lord. I hope that you will make this pilgrimage – either in person, or remotely, whatever works for you and your house. Thanks to all the CUCCers who have worked to make our regathering plan possible. I will see you

[Back to Top](#)

- In/from the sanctuary on August 8 for our “soft opening” of livestreaming and in-person worship – remember that this is a *new* thing we are doing so please be patient and gracious with us as we work out the bugs. Surely there will be some!
- In/from Ambucs park on August 15 for Blessing of the Backpacks and a visit from the Moo Mobile.
- In/from the sanctuary on August 22 for Quad Day when we welcome our university neighbors back to campus.
- In/from the sanctuary on August 29 when Pastor Nate will be preaching, and this year’s Confirmation class kicks off following worship.

If you plan to come to worship in person, please take the time to read the article from your Sound and Ethical Practices Team and Music Director about what to expect. I’ll highlight a few aspects of our plan here: Please bring your mask. We will be wearing masks in the building. Measures have been taken to keep our building well ventilated and increase the exchange of air. Seating in worship and worship’s duration and style have been adjusted. In other words, we are implementing as many mitigations as possible to keep one another safe. Please do your part: If you are not feeling well, at all, stay home and participate in worship remotely. It’s important to note that anyone with eyes to see knows that this pandemic journey is, sadly, not behind us and the Delta variant is aggressive. We are watching covid numbers in our county and heeding the advice of Public Health. While we hope that we will be able to continue in-person worship for the duration, realistically, we know that we might have to make an abrupt shift back to remote worship. Let us continue to pray that we will all have the presence of mind to make wise, community-minded choices. Lots of folks are talking about personal freedom these days, but the truth is: we belong to each other. Get your shot if you haven’t already.

It may seem like all the mitigation measures and fuss will take all the fun out of regathering, but what pilgrimage is without planning and preparation? Ones that go poorly, honestly. So, let’s take all of our precautions in stride and look forward in the future to which God is calling us, a future that is full of possibility. And, let us do so with joy. I was glad when they said, let us go to the house of God!

Blessings,
Leah



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



Moderator Musings

I looked back at my first Moderator Musings from the February newsletter. In late January I wrote, "We don't know exactly when we'll return to the building..." Well, now we do--less than two weeks after I'm writing this! (And quite possibly, before you read this...)

I suspect that for many of us, August/September feels like another "New Year"--even if we've been out of school for decades. How great that we get to start it by meeting together in person again on a regular basis. And thanks to everyone who's working to keep our livestreams going so that people will still be able to attend remotely when that works better.



Warm Regards,
Elizabeth Shack, Moderator

[Back to Top](#)

Insights into In-Person Worship

As previously announced, August 8 will be the first Sunday that we are gathering for in-person worship in the sanctuary. For many CUCC folks that creates a lot of excitement yet also a fair bit of anxiety; hence, we want to give you all a snapshot of what in-person worship will look like as it relates to our COVID protocols.

- Everyone will enter the building through the main, 6th Street entrance
- We will all wear face masks for the entire time we're in the building, regardless of vaccination status
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the entryway
- An usher will greet you and take you to your seat
- Social-distancing protocols will be in place such that members of different households will sit 6' apart
- In addition to our standard HVAC airflow, fans will be bringing in fresh, outside air
- There will be no congregational singing or group recitation
- Kids will be in worship with their families in August and there will be no children's moment (but more info is coming soon!)
- There will be no nursery care available for the immediate future
- Socially distanced Confirmation will take place at dates/times to be provided in consultation with those families and sponsors
- There will be a variety of music, some pre-recorded and some from vaccinated soloists who will be singing from the choir loft and who may be masked or mask-less
- There will be no hymnals or registration pads in the pews
- The service is intended to last 45 minutes, from 10:15-11AM
- At the conclusion of worship, ushers will release people by row and direct folks out the parking lot door
- Hand sanitizer will be available by the back door
 - Coffee hour will be held outdoors with drinks and prepackaged snacks (*not in August per the Hospitality Team*)

If you have any question, please contact Grant Robbennolt (SEP), Kyle Mahannah (SEP), Chase Skye (Worship) or Susan Pawlicki (Worship).

Amazon Smile

If you shop through Amazon, know that you can **select Community United Church of Christ in Champaign, IL** and a small portion of your purchase total will be donated to benefit our ministry and Jubilee Café. This does not add any cost to you, but it will support us in our ministry.

Please consider using this feature through Amazon and designating Community United Church of Christ in Champaign, IL as the recipient of your charitable donation.

To begin directing donations from your eligible Amazon purchases to CUCC, click on the link and follow the steps displayed on screen. The steps necessary to setup Amazon Smile are outlined below.

[AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.](#)

- Click the "gold get started button"
- Sign into your Amazon account with your email address or phone number and password
 - *If you do not have an Amazon account, you can create one.*
- Type Community United Church of Christ in as your charity of choice.
- Verify CUCC is in Champaign, IL before clicking the "Select" button.
 - This is now your charity.

Then the next time you need to make a purchase from Amazon, be sure to log into [AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.](#) Where you will find the same products, same prices, same services as the Amazon you know.



[Back to Top](#)

Pastor Leah on Vacation



Pastor Leah is on vacation **July 28-31, August 3-7, and August 11-14**. Pastor Connie is available for any pastoral emergencies you may experience during this time. If you require pastoral care on **August 13-14**, please contact Pastor Leah.

Worship in the Park

Worship and Hospitality Teaming Up

Save the Dates and Mark Your Calendars.....

Sunday, August 15 at 10:15am

By popular demand, the Worship Team will have 1 more outdoor service this summer - at Ambucs Park, Jean Driscoll Pavilion (1140 E. University Avenue, Urbana).



Sunday, August 15th- Following the Blessing of the Backpacks Service, the Hospitality Ministry Team will host the Sidney Dairy Barn Moo Mobile in the parking lot and provide ice cream treats for all!



Bring your lawn chairs if you wish and join us for some wonderful in-person outdoor worship along with some fun, food, treats and conversation.

~Susan Pawlicki and Chase Skye, Worship Co-Chairs

~Randy Musser and Peg Wade, Community Building/Hospitality Co-Chairs

The Fifth Annual Interfaith Alliance Picnic

Come join your friends from the interfaith community in C-U as the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County hosts their 5th annual picnic at Hessel Park, Champaign Large Pavilion 4:00 – 6:00pm Sunday, **August 1, 2021**. Featuring food (potluck), great conversation, prayer for our community, and lots of fun! We will welcome back Joyful Bubbles and Kona Ice again this year as well!

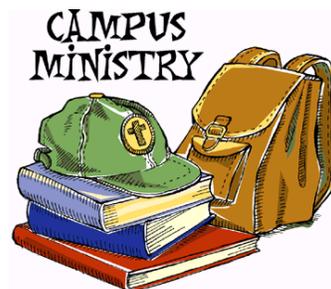
For more information, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pg/InterfaithCU/events. This picnic is sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County (IFACC) and its constituent group.



[Back to Top](#)

Campus Ministry

It is time for a brand-new academic year! This year will bring with it a lot of opportunity. We have two classes who have never gotten a chance to meet us on top of a class that only had a half year here. That means that nearly three quarters of all undergrads in the fall missed out on CUCC. Campus Ministry and CUCC is eager to throw out the red carpet of love and welcome all these new students but growing concerns about rising COVID numbers means uncertainty too. Quad day is still scheduled (so far anyway) and we'd love your help!! So, what else can CUCC folk do?



1. Stay flexible: It's hard, I know... but we may need to wing things again this year. But that doesn't mean we don't do them, it just means we may need to be nimble and creative in terms of how we do things, not if.
2. Hosting social events: Would you want to host a group of college students to come over for lunch after church on Sunday at some point? What about evening hangouts? We are always looking for hosts!
3. Campus family: Would you like to "adopt" a college student into your family for the year? Going away to college can be isolating and having a special connection locally can make all the difference. We would pair you up with a student and encourage you to check in with that student throughout the year and show them a little extra love.
4. Show up: When you hear that campus ministry is doing something at the church, be it a fun event or outreach or leading worship, one of the biggest gifts you can share is yourselves and your time so just showing up is a huge support.
5. Money: I know, I know, another money ask. But your gifts really do make this ministry happen. We wouldn't be here if not for your support, financially and otherwise. Thank you for your generous support over the years!

-Rev. Nate Brantingham
(He, Him, His)
Director of Campus Ministry

(509) 434 9356

CUCC Garage Sale



The CUCC garage sale will be September 18th! It will be at the Hinze-Pifer family's garage (910 W. Clark St. Champaign) on Saturday September 18th from 8 am - 1 pm. We need people to work the garage sale! We need people to put out yard signs, collect and organize items on Friday, and sell and clean up on Saturday. The sign up is here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0548A4AE2AA2FE3-cucc>. Please sign up by September 1st!

[Back to Top](#)

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
7/5/2021	--
7/12/2021	62
7/19/2021	49
7/26/2021	66
Meals Served	177

Drivers Needed for Jubilee Cafe Food To Go Deliveries

Since the advent of Covid-19, the Urbana Drivers team that usually provided transportation to folks who wanted to come to services on Sunday but had no means has been delivering food on Monday evenings to two families that can use the help. We currently have four drivers but would like to expand our group. If you're available to pick up the meals on Mondays at 5 pm and deliver to two locations in Urbana, please let me know. You don't need to live in Urbana. You can email me at jamozzie99@yahoo.com or call me at 217-841-8070.



Thanks,

John Osborne

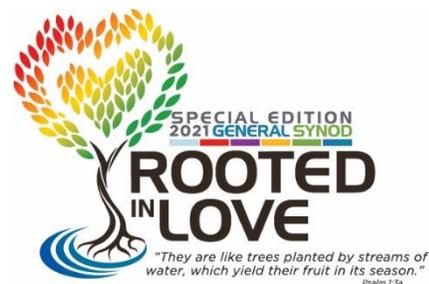
[Back to Top](#)

UCC General Synod Summary

The following are excerpts from General Minister and President John Dorhauer's State of the Church Address presented at the UCC General Synod as written by Connie Larkin measured the denomination's health and vitality by "our ongoing efforts to heed the call of the Holy Spirit and continue to display our courage in the struggle."

He pointed to examples of unity, welcome, love and justice at every level of the church as the way clergy, congregants, Conference ministers, lay leaders and national staff have answered the call as "agents of transformation" in the mission to which they were called.

"When they tell the story of the UCC generations from now, it won't be a story about our size but about our capacity as agents of transformation. They will tell the story of what our love in action did to help build a just world for all."



Pandemic pivot

"What started out as a 'we will do this because we don't have a choice' approach became a 'wow, look what the Holy Spirit can do!' attitude," he said. "This church and the faith that sustains it have revealed themselves in the midst of a global pandemic that altered the landscape of our future."

White racism

Dorhauer challenged the body to come together collectively to become anti-racist church. He pointed to the work of the curricula for Sacred Conversations to End Racism, with 140 facilitators trained nationwide to lead those conversations. "Those facilitators will form a network of leaders who will also help us conduct a new denomination-wide mission effort launched at this Synod called Join the Movement [Toward Racial Justice] – an effort to begin to document in full what every covenant partner in this denomination is doing to end racism.

Climate change

Turning to a justice issue that "will have more to say about the state of our church than any metric we would otherwise rely on," he spoke about the crisis of climate change. He cited a number of ways the UCC is already responding. "This year we were nominated for and a finalist for national recognition as a leader in climate justice. "We have authored landmark reports on the effects of climate justice on marginalized communities of color, bringing people's attention to the impact of environmental racism. "We are partnering with the United Nations to lift up and fight for Sustainable Development Goals. "At this Synod, the Cornerstone Fund is announcing their Creation Care Fund – low-interest loans to churches who will find ways to lower their carbon footprint.

'Clear signs' of vitality, relevance

"Whether we have the willingness to sustain that will be answered not by our attendance in worship, not by dollars in our offering plates, but by our ongoing efforts to heed to call of the Holy Spirit and continue to display our courage in the struggle. If we apply the kind of endurance, adaptiveness, tenacity, don't-quit-edness to the pandemics of racism and climate change that we just displayed in overcoming COVID – then I say the state of the church is as vital and healthy as it ever has been or ever could be."

Work in progress

He referenced the remaining two years of his term by ticking off items in process: A potential office move from the Church House, downsizing to another downtown Cleveland building, "a move that will save hundreds of thousands of dollars a year ... and preserve millions that would have to be spent" on a 120-year-old building. A nearly finished redesign of ucc.org, to provide "access and resources to tell the world who we are, what we care about and what our mission is." A launch of an educational platform, Frontline Faith, to provide churches "with meaningful and relevant resource material." A renewed partnership with the United Nations. Ongoing work on the Manual on Church and discussions about a new Book of Worship. "We are a denomination on the move," he said. "The missional impulse to love all, welcome all and seek justice for all is spot on."

The complete article can be read at this link:

https://www.ucc.org/john-dorhauer-we-are-a-denomination-on-the-move/?inf_contact_key=996f7abd5e54c6f3585b800db5b1288c4dfbc39d7283b2cb89d5189540b69330

[Back to Top](#)

Resolutions

Synod changes decision, passes resolution on occupied Hawaii

The governing body of the United Church of Christ doesn't usually change its mind about a vote it has taken. On July 18, it did. [General Synod](#) delegates voted to reconsider [a resolution about Hawaii that they had narrowly defeated the day before](#). This time the resolution got 72.9 percent approval — comfortably more than the two-thirds required to pass.

The resolution calls on church leaders to ask that the U.S. recognize its own presence in Hawaii as an “illegal occupation” according to international law. On July 17, a majority — but not the needed super-majority — had voted for it.

The resolution had come to Synod from the UCC's [Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches](#), made up of [31 historically Native Hawaiian congregations](#) from across Hawaii. Some 80 percent of them were founded before 1893, the year the United States took Hawaii by military overthrow.

Read the resolution as originally written: <https://www.ucc.org/native-hawaiians-seek-synod-support-for-sovereignty-steps/>

Synod resolves to address gender safety and equity

The [General Synod](#) of the United Church of Christ July 17 overwhelmingly adopted — without debate — a resolution that calls on the UCC Board and all of the denomination's settings to explore ways to promote gender safety and equity for women and other persons who are subjected to harassment and discrimination based on their gender orientation. But during the committee session, the language of the resolution was broadened to address harassment and discrimination against a larger group of “included people,” defined in the resolution as “women, transgender, gender-expansive, nonbinary, genderqueer, gender fluid, gender non-conforming, and two-spirit persons,” both lay and authorized ministers. The resolution also confessed the denomination's “complicity, active participation with, and passive acceptance of systems of sexism, misogyny, transphobia, and gender oppression that inhibit leadership.” It was amended in committee to direct the UCC Board to take action to address the problems, and urged all settings, “including (but not limited to) local congregations, Committees on Ministry, and Justice and Local Church Ministries Teams,” to address the issues that were identified.

Read the resolution as originally written <https://www.ucc.org/proposed-synod-action-would-confess-church-too-inequality-abuse/>

Synod delegates approve resolution decrying oppression of Palestinian people

The United Church of Christ [“Special Edition” General Synod](#) approved a resolution decrying oppression of Palestinian people as a matter of faith, but not before a debate over whether calling that oppression “apartheid” and naming it a “sin” was too inflammatory.

Delegates agree it's time to honor 'rights of nature'

“Who will speak for the trees?” asked Dr. Seuss in his 1971 book, “The Lorax.” “We will,” said the [New Hampshire Conference](#), a regional body of the United Church of Christ. And now the UCC's [General Synod](#) has spoken, too. Synod delegates adopted “Who Will Speak for the Trees? A Resolution on the Rights of Nature.” Among many other things, the resolution supports “the ecological principle that the Rights of Nature supersedes harmful and destructive property rights.”

Synod delegates 'deplore' conversion therapy, call for its ban

Delegates to the United Church of Christ [General Synod](#) condemned conversion therapy, the medical practice that attempts to “cure” the sexual or gender identity of LGBTQ individuals. With more than 98 percent of those voting in agreement, the gathering called on local congregations to “advocate for state and federal laws protecting adults, youth and children” from the practice. They also called on parents, ministers, and caregivers to “protect those in their care” from persons or programs which may use conversion therapy.

Synod delegates affirm resolution calling for cash bail system reform

“The cash bail bond system doesn't keep people accused of crimes in jail; it keeps poor people accused of crimes in jail.”

“The power from this statement comes from the language that is being applied to it, and I think the language could be and should be stronger,” said Andrew Roblyer of [South Central](#), who proposed the amendment. Taking action on the resolution as amended, 551 delegates voted “yes,” 10 voted “no,” and 3 abstained.

[Back to Top](#)

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-liturgists3
Worship Team	Greeter	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters5
Worship Team	Hymn Leaders & Other Music for Worship	Music Director	music@community-ucc.org	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VRO-hpyuH5Exip52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HZxzhefK7nlass/edit?usp=sharing
Summer Music	Music and Hymns for Summer Worship	Office Admin	Info@community-ucc.org	https://forms.gle/5ZbT1KhYtgRj3sqx6
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!
Sunday, August 1 – Tuesday, August 31



Sunday, August 1: Guardians/parents of prospective Confirmation Students please submit the names of the 3 sponsors your child has identified to be their Confirmation Guide and whether your child has been baptized to Jessica Smiley TODAY.

Sunday, August 1, 4:00pm – 6:00pm: The 5th Annual Interfaith Alliance Picnic at Hessel Park (bring a covered dish to share)

Thursday, August 5, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast at Urbana Garden Restaurant

Saturday, August 7, 9am -12pm: Clean-up Children and Youth Space. Sign up by contacting Julie McClure or Jessica Smiley

Sunday, August 8, 10:15am: Worship in person at CUCCC and streaming live online

Sunday, August 8: Deadline for registering child(ren) for Sunday School

Sunday, August 15, 10:15am: Worship with blessing of the backpacks at Ambucs Park, Urbana, IL with the Moo Mobile following worship

Sunday, August 15, 6:00pm: Individuals Together attending Concert in the Park

Tuesday, August 17. 11:30am: Monthly Retirees' Luncheon at Sun Singer Restaurant, Champaign, IL

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

Friday, August 20: Parking Lot Overhaul

Saturday, August 21, 7:30pm: Individuals Together Concert at Alto Vineyards

Sunday, August 22, 10:15am: Worship in person at CUCC and streaming live online

Sunday, August 22, 12:00pm: Quad Day hot dogs in the parking lot

Wednesday, August 25, 7:00pm: Fall Music Possibilities Discussion

Sunday, August 29: Confirmation Kickoff Event, save the date – details coming soon

Looking Ahead to September:

Wednesday, September 1: Deadline for registering to help with the CUCC Garage Sale

Monday, September 6, 9:00am – 3:00pm: Labor Day, CUCC Church Office Closed

Sunday, September 12, 10:15am: Rally Day! Kids will receive bibles, and we will have our first official Sunday School class!

Sunday, September 12: CUCC's Annual Sidney Dairy Barn ride bikes/drive car/play kickball, eat pizza, eat Dairy Barn ice cream event!

Monday, September 13, 7:15pm: Pub Theology begins reading *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler

Saturday, September 18, 8:00am – 1:00pm: CUCC Garage Sale at Hinze-Pifer family's garage

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



[Back to Top](#)



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=WmlBN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09	+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)

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=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTlUNnR1SjlVUT09	+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)



“I’ve Been Meaning to Ask” –worship series continues

Our worship series “I’ve Been Meaning to Ask”, curated by A Sanctified Art, the folks who brought us the Again & Again and Unraveled continues. This series is all about curiosity, courage, and connection, things we need more of in our communities and country these days. This series covers 8 weeks and focuses on one question over the course of two weeks. In addition to weekly worship utilizing the artwork, videos, liturgy from A Sanctified Art, in July’s worship kit, you’ll receive:

- A study journal that contains art, written reflections, poetry, text study prompts, commentary, and conversation prompts. This study journal digs deep into the sub-theme questions and scriptures included in the series, and
- A set of specially designed conversation cards which you’ll find to be invaluable tools as you seek to connect more deeply with family, friends, and neighbors.
 - If you did not receive a worship kit and would like one, please call the church office to arrange delivery one. There will also be a few extra worship kits in the old entry way. Pick one up there when at CUCC for worship on August 8 or 22.

Here are the themes for this series:

Weeks 3 & 4: I’ve been meaning to ask. . . **where does it hurt?**

- 1 Samuel 1:1-18 (Hannah’s pain)
- Mark 5:21-43 (The healing of a hemorrhaging woman and Jairus’ daughter)
- This question implies that all of us have known pain and suffering. In order to cultivate connection, we must first get curious about the pain others carry and the pain we carry ourselves. Before we can act, we must first acknowledge and believe the pain is real, for bearing witness to each other’s pain helps us cultivate compassion. In 1 Samuel, Hannah’s pain is ignored, diminished, and mocked. Yet, Hannah vulnerably and courageously bears all of herself before God, which transforms Eli’s perspective. She finds release by being fully seen and known by God. In the dual healing story of the hemorrhaging woman and Jairus’ daughter, we acknowledge those who suffer chronically and in isolation. By telling these women’s stories, we hope to bear witness to the particular and very common struggles related to fertility and reproductive health. Additionally, we must confess the harm done in neglecting the emotional, physical, individual, historical, and systemic wounds that exist among us.

Weeks 5 & 6: I’ve been meaning to ask. . . **what do you need?**

- Job 2:11-13 (Job’s friends come to comfort him)
- 2 Timothy 4:9-18 (Paul’s final instructions to Timothy)
- This question recognizes that we all have needs and that we need each other. It reminds us that we each have unique needs; we can’t assume to know what is best for others. It also prompts us to reflect on our own needs, priorities, and desires, which can sometimes be difficult to discern from one situation to the next. In the midst of Job’s afflictions, three of his friends promptly leave their homes and come to him. They tear their garments, weep loudly, and sit with him for seven days, saying nothing. Their response is the ministry of presence, of true solidarity, of seeing his excruciating pain and joining him there. Beaten and imprisoned, Paul writes to Timothy with a simple request: “Come quickly.” He lists those who abandoned him, but says, “I hope that God doesn’t hold it against them!” In his greatest moment of need, Paul doesn’t need revenge, but instead asks for companionship. In essence, this is what we all need—for someone to come quickly, to gather the items we need, and to simply show up.

Weeks 7 & 8: I’ve been meaning to ask. . . **where do we go from here?**

- Ruth 1:1-22 (Ruth and Naomi become chosen family)
- Acts 10 (Peter, Cornelius, & the Gentiles)
- This final question is not meant to be the end of the journey; instead, it creates openness to explore together what is next. It is contextual, designed for individuals, families, churches, and communities to discern how to move forward into something new. Our hope is that we keep cultivating curiosity, asking questions, having conversations, and seeking connection in order to humanize and care for each other. Ultimately, this final question invites us to foster

[Back to Top](#)

hope and imagination. After the loss of loved ones disrupts their lives, Ruth and Naomi create a new covenant with each other, choosing to be in a relationship across their religious, cultural, and generational divides. As women, they build power together in a system where they have little power. Peter and a pious Roman centurion named Cornelius are brought together through visions they each receive. Peter and Cornelius meet face-to-face, and Peter says: "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another." Through their courageous conversation, their narrow perceptions of others expand, the Spirit descends upon them, and they share in community and hospitality.



Worship Ministry Seeking Liturgists and Greeters

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



Liturgist: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgists3>

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-greeters5>

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

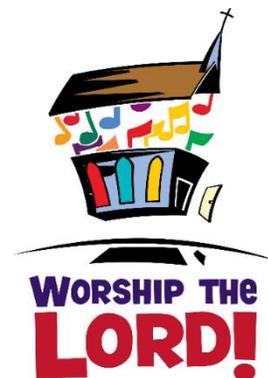


[Back to Top](#)

A note from your Music Director

As we have seen over the last year and a half, although we cannot always predict what will be safe or possible at any given time, we know that beautiful music and connection are possible no matter the circumstances. Thank you to everyone who has made summer music and worship possible. I am excited to resume my position as Music Director on August 23, and discussions have already begun to shape the fall season of music at CUCC.

Singing at CUCC is likely to open up gradually, and future possibilities are contingent on many changing factors. I attended the Chorus America conference this summer to learn what best practice is, and as will surprise no one, there are no clear answers going forward. Our church is incorporating the recommendations from the panel of doctors at the conference regarding vaccination, spacing, duration, and masking. Read on to see what you can expect at the upcoming August indoor services.



August in-person music guidance for in-person services

- The congregation will be masked and will not sing indoors.
- The service is intended to last 45 minutes, from 10:15-11AM with windows open when possible.
- Singing will be limited to one or two vaccinated soloists singing from the loft who may sing without a mask, but masks will be worn at all other times. No soloist is required to sing unmasked.
- Accompaniment may be from piano or organ but singing will always be from the loft.

Current choir members and others hoping to participate in music at CUCC are welcome to join a meeting at church Wednesday August 25 @7PM to discuss fall music possibilities. Contact me if you'd like to attend virtually, and I will send you a Zoom option. To start the discussion, complete this attached survey to let me know how you feel about various music options: <https://forms.gle/NbAEYy1LJi6LpR5P9>

Don't hesitate to contact me with questions: music@community-ucc.org.

-Kathy Lee

Mission Ministry Team

From Your Mission Team:

Greetings! Yes, it is still summer vacation season, but there continue to be many needs in our community, and we are so grateful for the ways you are helping and becoming involved!

About 15 of you came to be part of the "End White Silence" visibility event which we sponsored in conjunction with the local SURJ Group (Showing Up for Racial Justice) on July 18th. This was an important way to show our community that we continue to see injustice and inequality in our world and that progress must be made.

In July, we heard from Ginger Mills from Cunningham Children's Home to learn about the Caminos Program to assist unaccompanied minors, and to learn about some of the needs of that program (see previous e-mail from the Mission Team for their Wish List). Several of you have already brought contributions to the church!

The local UPCenter (Uniting Pride in Champaign County) has also shared some needs for items to help their programs run smoothly, and several of you have also helped with contributions already.

[Back to Top](#)

You may have noticed that we have a designated collection area in the church. It is located in the old entry way to the church, right next to the parlor, and has collection boxes for each of the 3 organizations mentioned above, as well as for our continuing collection of underwear for Canteen Run. Next time you are at the church, stop by, see what is needed, and bring your contributions!

We are so glad for the many ways in which you have already contributed to these Mission Projects and look forward to working with you in mission to further God's kin-dom in our community!

Jeanne, Kristy, and Ramona



Jubilee Farm

Many of you know that for several years, our church has purchased a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share of produce and eggs from Jubilee Farm in Clinton, Illinois to be donated to people in need. Jubilee Farm has been a UCC Farm/Ministry, pastored by Reverend Cyndy Ash, a UCC pastor. They have also donated lots of produce to our own Jubilee Cafe over the years! Recently, we received this letter from Cyndy, explaining a change in the program, and she wanted to be sure that all of



Jubilee Farms

you got this information as well:

It is the year of Jubilee!

When I founded Jubilee Farms, it was with the Biblical tradition of Jubilee on my mind. As you know, the book of Numbers (chapter 26) declares that every 50 years, God's people would dedicate a year of rest to God and call it "Jubilee". This year would help center them in the knowledge that God – and not their own work or worth – was responsible for their many blessings. They would rest from their labors. Their oxen and beasts of burden would rest. Their LAND would rest, lying fallow to allow it to regenerate and remain fruitful. Gratitude and thanks would be the order of every day.

And I am grateful. I am deeply grateful for your involvement and your support of this farm. Without your commitment to the vision of sustainable, healthy food for all people – food justice – Jubilee Farms would never have happened. I am also sad. Because this Jubilee was unexpected.

[Back to Top](#)

You must be wondering how, in the middle of season, Jubilee suddenly appeared. It happened this way: I came home from my full-time job to find a letter of resignation of my farm manager, Morgan Hazen, effective Friday after next. No extension could be negotiated. And, unfortunately, I cannot sustain the farm alone. As you know, I have a full-time paying job, which supports my family of four. The help of fabulous volunteers is fabulous, but it cannot make a Community Supported Ag. farm viable.

So what is ahead? I personally will continue to keep the sheep herd for the foreseeable future. I will continue to plant cover crops on all of my acreage. I will continue regenerative grazing. I will likely do something with our high tunnels next season, I'm not sure what yet. Our Facebook and farm page will continue.

How long this hiatus will last, I do not know, but if farming teaches us anything it is humility in the face of the future. In the interim I'm happy to preach or speak about food justice and land sustainability. I hope to continue to encourage and support the work of regenerative agriculture which is my passion and calling.

During a year of Jubilee, debts are resolved. I can't pay my full debt of gratitude, but I can settle up on what you paid for shares: We will issue refunds to all of our purchased shares for the remaining 10 weeks at share pickups. Those shares purchased for donation will be donated via egg donations for the remainder of the season. This will more than offset the donated dollars.

We are extremely thankful to each and every one of you who supported our mission via donated dollars or volunteer hours. We wish that was enough to make our mission possible but unfortunately it is not.

I imagined Jubilee to be a happy time, but I confess that I am a bit sad as I close this chapter of my story. I know how desperately the world needs missions like this one to continue but unfortunately, I just can no longer do it. I have a family to support and my own mental and physical health to consider. I ultimately have no other choice.

Again, I am deeply grateful for those of you who have supported the farm. I strongly encourage you to support farms like this one. There are other CSA's in your area and they are a vast improvement over going to the grocery store. Please support your local farmers in this year of Jubilee.

With love,
The Rev. Cyndy Ash

Thanks!
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Kristy Brownfield klmel04@gmail.com 217-246-8571
Ramona Oswald roswald@illinois.edu 217-649-9651

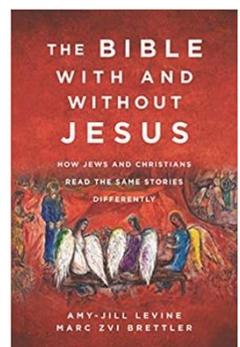


Pub Theology

Pub Theology will begin meeting again on September 13, the Monday following Labor Day. At that time, we will begin reading *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. These esteemed Bible scholars take readers on a guided tour of numerous Hebrew Bible stories referenced in the New Testament to reveal what the ancient texts meant in their original contexts and to show how and why the Jewish and Christian traditions find very different meanings in them.

If you are interested in joining us to read this book and are not yet receiving the Pub Theology emails, let Tom Ward know and he can add your email address to the listing. Pub Theology meets on Monday nights at 7:15 for about 75 minutes, currently on Zoom.

~Tom Ward
wardt508@comcast.net



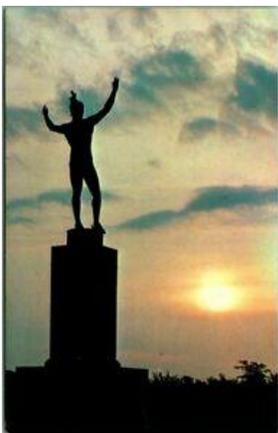
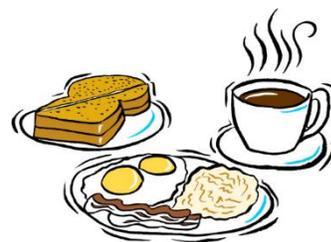
[Back to Top](#)

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. Our next gathering is Thursday, August 5 at Urbana Garden Restaurant. It will be great to see you all again.

~Tom Ward

wardt508@comcast.net



CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group

We had 15 retirees meet for lunch at Bunny's in Urbana on Tuesday, July 20th. It was so good to see folks in person and hear about what's going on in each other's lives! Our next lunch will be Tuesday, August 17th (3rd Tuesday of the month), 11:30 a.m. at Sun singer Restaurant in Champaign.

~ Peg and Roger Wade

Individuals Together

Five members of CUCC's Individuals Together group met under a big shade tree in Hessel Park on Sunday, July 25, to enjoy the music of the band New Souls, a concert sponsored by the Champaign Park District. We brought yummy finger foods, had good discussion, and met some new friends, while nice soul music played in the background. It was a great evening for being outside! We started some planning for our next adventures, which will include another "Concert in the Park" on Sunday, August 15 at 6PM, and a concert at Alto Vineyards on Saturday, August 21 at 7:30PM. We haven't seen each other much lately, so decided to "double up" and plan 2 events in 1 month!

If you're a person who lives alone –for ANY reason—you are welcome to join this group, Individuals Together, for any, or all of our activities. Call Linda Morgan, Faith Community Nurse (217-649-3778) with any questions.



[Back to Top](#)

Community Building and Hospitality Team



- **Sunday, August 15th** – Outdoor Service/Backpack Blessing Sunday. We will have the Sidney Dairy Barn Moo Mobile in the parking lot following the service. Hospitality will provide 8-ounce treats for everyone. There will be a donation jar available also for anyone wanting to offset the costs.
- **Sunday, August 22nd** – Quad Day “Hot dog giveaway” in our church parking lot following the church service. We need lots of volunteers to make this a successful event and one that welcomes our students back to campus this year. It’s a fun event for CUCCers to do, and the students really enjoy walking by and picking up a free hot dog. We have both inside and outside jobs and 2 different shifts available (first shift: right after church until 1:30 and second shift: 1:30 until 3:30 or until hot dogs are gone & things are cleaned up). The grill masters start around 11:00, grilling the first batch of hot dogs in the downstairs kitchen. Watch for the sign-up sheet at our in-person services on August 8th and August 15th OR you can text, call or email Peg Wade at peg.wade@comcast.net 217-369-0474 to volunteer.



- **Sunday, September 12th** – CUCC’s annual Sidney Dairy Barn ride bikes/drive cars/play kickball, eat pizza and go have Dairy Barn ice cream event!

Here is the schedule for this wonderful event for all ages (please feel free to come for all of the event or any part of it you wish):

2:30 p.m. Bikers meet Tom Ward at the southwest corner of the Urbana Meijer’s parking lot (be sure to have a light or some type of reflector on your bike as it may be getting dark on the ride home).

4:00 p.m. Drivers and bikers meet up at Witt Park, 306 Witt Park Rd., in Sidney

4:15 p.m. Play a game of kickball in the park, play at the playground, or just relax, visit, and cheer on the kickball players.

5:00 p.m. Enjoy pizza, veggies, and drinks in the park pavilion. There will be a donation jar available.

5:45 p.m. Head to the Sidney Dairy Barn for ice cream and more visiting.



[Back to Top](#)

Children and Family Ministry

Hello families!

As the school year and in person church approaches, here's the info you need to know for your preK-5th grade kiddos!



- The first service in the sanctuary is **August 8th**. There will not be Sunday School, but I will have pew activities available if your child accompanies you to worship.
- Don't miss worship in the park and **Blessing of the Backpacks on August 15th!** I will be planning a short activity for kids that are there.
- **Sunday School** at the church building will begin on **September 12th**. Masks will be required for leaders and kids, and I will be planning activities where we can maintain distance. We will also utilize the Quad as an outdoor space as weather permits. If you are not quite ready to send your child in person, that is okay. We will send weekly activities to make sure they are still connected to CUCC, and we will be ready to welcome them when you are ready to send them!
- Whether you plan to have your child participate in Sunday School in person or receive materials at home, please fill out the registration form at this link <https://forms.gle/AxNqiAwZfRthsnXz7> so we can plan for those numbers



I'm looking for some folks who are interested in serving during Sunday School! There will need to be at least two adults with the kids each week, and I'd like to keep it at just two for now to limit the number of people in our space. There is no pre-planning required! I will provide you with easy-to-follow lessons for the day and prep materials. Typically, there is a bible story presented, then an activity or two to supplement. Sound like something you might like to do? Email me at jemcclure4@gmail.com!

[Sunday School Registration Form](#)

Youth Group

Hello!

I hope you are doing well. We are beginning to plan Confirmation for this fall. As you may recall, youth who are participating in Confirmation are asked to identify a sponsor that would provide support to them as they explore their faith journey. We are asking our youth to provide three names of potential sponsors. The first name provided would be the one that they want the most and then the others will follow.



Guardians/Parents we ask you to provide these names and whether or not your youth has been baptized by **Sunday, August 1st**. We plan to host a kickoff event with the Confirmands and sponsors on **August 29th** in the afternoon. Please save the date. More information will be coming soon.

Are you interested in knowing more about Confirmation and what that would look like for youth in seventh grade and up? Feel free to email me or call/text (217) 552-8063 for more information.

As you can imagine it has been a little while since we have spruced up our children and youth spaces. We are hosting a cleanup opportunity for both the spaces on **Saturday, August 7 from 9 am to noon**. Masks are required. If you are interested in participating in this activity, please email myself or Julie McClure to sign up.



Take care,
Jessica
[Back to Top](#)

Allerton Park



Looking for a new place to explore that is close to home? Why not try Allerton Park? Allerton Park is 25 miles west of Champaign-Urbana and has been operating as a public park under the University of Illinois since 1946. There are picturesque [formal gardens](#), over 14 miles of [hiking trails](#), [overnight lodging](#), and a [Café](#). In addition, Allerton Park is also beginning to do [public events](#) once again, including outdoor concerts, garden tours, public hikes, kids' programs, and workshops. You can learn more about Allerton Park at allerton.illinois.edu, find maps [here](#), and FAQs [here](#). If you want to stay up to date on future activities, you can sign up for the weekly newsletter [here](#).

The Uniting Pride Center is Seeking Input

The University of Illinois and the Uniting Pride Center of Champaign are collaborating on a research project to evaluate the characteristics of the LGBTQ+ community in Champaign County and are seeking input from LGBTQ+ residents. This project will contribute to the advancement of diverse services and programs offered at the Uniting Pride Center, so that all LGBTQ+ groups within Champaign County can best be served, accepted, and appreciated in the place they call home. See the attached flyer for more details or take the survey at https://illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0HQBI16IBngokFE



[Back to Top](#)

Contact CUCC:

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