



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-Communigram

Volume 60, Issue 9 – September 1 -30

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

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Letters from Leah

If you've been around CUCC for a while, perhaps you remember this story. I remember my mom saying, "He's going to build a boat." She marveled at the idea. "The disciples were fishermen, and our pastor's going to build a boat. I just think that's so cool."

Now, I don't remember when Rev. Mennerick took his renewal leave, nor do I remember how long he had gone without a sabbatical. What I do remember is my mom's fascination with the metaphorical intersection of her pastor and boatbuilding. I also remember our church being *excited* for him to go and eager to hear about his adventures in boat building upon his return.

I hope the same thing happens for us when I go on sabbatical this fall.

As a university church, the term "sabbatical" is familiar to us. However, some of us may be unclear about what clergy sabbaticals are all about. With that in mind, I wanted to take some time to explain what a pastor's renewal leave looks like and let you know how I will be spending my time.

Clergy sabbaticals = renewal: Clerical sabbaticals differ from academic sabbaticals in that pastors are not expected to do research or write a book while away from their congregations. Pastors are expected to renew: rest their bodies deeply, rejuvenate their spirits, re-create themselves through recreation, and reconnect with their families who share them with the Church. Clergy sabbaticals allow churches and pastors to live out "remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy" in remarkable ways. Renewal leaves, when honored as Sabbath space, return pastors to their congregations refreshed in body, mind, and spirit, ready to take on the mantle of ministry yet again.

That being said, I do plan to work on a book while I'm on sabbatical. For some time, I have wanted to take the Jubilee Café reports I write and post to social media on Mondays and compile them into a book. Try as I might to accomplish that, the time set in my weekly work schedule to write has often been co-opted by pastoral or institutional emergencies – the pandemic has been rife with those. I have also found it difficult to have enough creative energy for all the normal work of pastoring plus writing. I'm hopeful that sabbatical will help me find a rhythm and I'm grateful for time dedicated to this life-giving task. I'm also grateful for time to be with my family and just...wander. I had some travel plans, but those have been cancelled due to the Delta variant. As a result, I have changed the scope of "travel" accordingly. A silent retreat at a near-by convent with a labyrinth, Taize worship, and spiritual direction. Walks in the woods and prairie. A trip to the lake. Stargazing. While I deeply miss travel, I am also grateful for the opportunity to learn to be still, see the world that's right around me, and marvel.

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Renewal leaves, and leave conditions, are standard issue these days: Along with salary guidelines, housing allowances, and professional expenses, most ecclesial institutions include paid sabbatical leave as customary for clergy call agreements. Typically, pastors are eligible for three to four months of paid sabbatical time after every five years of service, and you should know that our church is typical. In my call agreement, you'll find that I am to take three months of leave after every five years of service completed and that this leave can be taken within one year. You will also find a proviso stating how long I must continue to serve at CUCC after returning from renewal leave, which is also a standard clause that prevents pastors from using renewal leave to search out other calls. (I'm not planning to go anywhere!) Last, in terms of what's typical, churches agree to release their pastors from *all duties* while on renewal leave so that they can really, truly rest without being called away to emergencies. This means pastors do not lead worship, conduct weddings, do hospital visits, or preside at funerals for their church while on leave. CUCC's leadership has been planning for this for a long time: you'll find a line item in our annual budget setting aside money to pay a Guest Pastor, in a three-quarter time role, to cover pastoral duties while I'm on sabbatical. (More about your Guest Pastor below!)

Finally, it's important for you to know that the COVID pandemic shifted these plans for me and CUCC. I was scheduled to go on sabbatical in October-December of 2020. A Sabbatical Planning Team was formed (John Murphy, who was Moderator at the time, Jon Ebel, who was In-coming Moderator, and Jan Hiland) and I started to meet. As we continued our discussion into the summer of 2020, I became uneasy. I knew I wouldn't be able to do some of the things I had planned, due to the pandemic. I also felt uneasy leaving you all in the midst of such a disturbing, uncertain time. After consulting with trusted colleagues, the Sabbatical Planning Team, and the Pastoral Relations Committee, I discussed these concerns with CLB, who voted to allow me to shift my renewal leave to later. I am grateful for their understanding and grace. Unfortunately, my hopes for the pandemic being mostly behind us when I took renewal leave didn't pan out. However, we, as a church, have a solid plan moving forward. I am confident you will be able to navigate these coming months with ease.

Successful renewal leaves don't get planned in a vacuum. My mother was only excited about Rev. Mennerick's boat building experience because she knew about it and supported it. She knew where he was going and what he'd be doing. She knew this was something that she should be excited about when he returned. To create that kind of congregational support, the CUCC leaders who penned the details of my call agreement with you envisioned the planning of my renewal leave happening in partnership with our Pastoral Relations Committee. (Your PRC is headed by Cara Finnegan. Members include Doug Irwin, Joel Brotherton, and your incoming moderator Erin Ewoldt.) The PRC and I have worked together to discern what would renew my heart to its fullest: naps and writing. I've laid the groundwork on the writing goal already, having sought out some coaching and attended a continuing education event with Diana Butler Bass last spring on spiritual memoir. About the naps: I'm pretty tired and the PRC has encouraged me to rest. The grind of adapting to the unknown has taken its toll. At least half of my most trusted colleagues have considered leaving ministry since the pandemic began, and some have. I don't want to be one of those pastors. I hope that this time of deep care for myself will restore my weary soul.

Who/What/When/Where: We are pleased to announce that Rev. William Lawser will be serving as Guest Pastor while I am away on sabbatical. You can read about Pastor Bill below. (Folks from Pub Theology will recognize Bill because he's been participating in those discussion for some time.) Pastor Bill comes to us with a lifetime of church experience and the Sabbatical Planning Committee feels he's the right person for the job. CUCC will be well served! My last Sunday before sabbatical is September 19. I will be working that week, concluding my duties with Pride Fest. Pastor Bill begins on September 30. He will be with you through Christmas and as the year winds down. I return to work on January 4.

Years from now, I'm not sure what the children of our church will remember about this time – I'm certainly not going to build a boat. I am going to work on compiling the story of the work we've done together over these last 3 years at Jubilee. We have quite the story to tell. I'm humbled to have time to work on it and honored to tell it.

Blessings,
Leah



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

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Guest Pastor The Rev. Bill Lawser

The Rev. Bill Lawser is a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). A native of eastern Pennsylvania, he was ordained in 1979 and has served the church from coast to coast as an associate pastor, interim pastor, and presbytery staff. From 2003-2011 he was an owner/consultant with Heartwood LLC, which focused on congregational transformation and leadership development. From 2000-2016, he served as faculty at several sites for interim/transitional pastor education for the PC (USA), and from 2011-2016 as an assessor and trainer for the denomination's New Beginnings process. After the PC (USA) discontinued this process, he continued the work in 2016-2017 under the auspices of the Disciples of Christ denomination which originated the process.

Bill is a 1972 graduate of the University of Illinois and returned to the area in 1999 when he began work as shared staff of two regional governing bodies (presbyteries) of the PC (USA). Since then, as an Illini season ticket holder, he can be found at football, men's basketball, and volleyball games, as well as other non-ticketed events. Movies, theatre, reading, and road trips are favored agenda items.



Moderator Musings

It's been great to see more than 50 of you in the building on Sundays! There will be a lot going on this fall--more hybrid worship services so we can attend in person or online, the return of coffee hour, a church-wide garage sale, Pride...and that's just September.

Please be patient while we all get used to the new safety measures for in-person services like spaced seating. The Church Life Board and Worship team are watching the state of the pandemic locally so we know when we should make more changes. Right now, we don't anticipate having to return to online-only worship--but please remember, the livestream will be there if you want it.



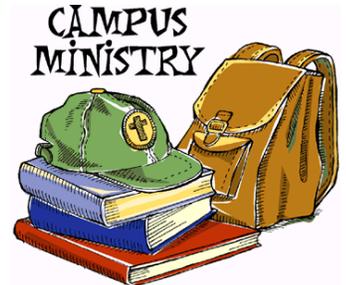
Warm Regards,
Elizabeth Shack, Moderator

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Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry is very excited to welcome students back to UIUC and CUCC! For students, we are doing many weekly events, including Sunday worship and hangout afterwards, Monday at Jubilee Cafe and after party following, Thursday office hours, and Friday social events. For the CUCC folks, we are still looking for families that would like to be paired with students. We also will have more opportunities for church members to assist with events this year, including (once safe) Sunday lunch for the students. If you can safely host a group, let Nate know at: nate@ucccampusministry.org.

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



CUCC Office

The CUCC Office will be closed Monday, September 6 for the Labor Day holiday. The CUCC Office will be closed Tuesday, September 7 – Thursday, September 9 as the Office Manager takes a few days of vacation. ~ Carla Rush, Office Manager

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!

Faith Community Nursing at CUCC

Did you know that Community United Church of Christ now has two Faith Community Nurses? I am sure most of you are familiar with long-time member Linda Morgan who is CUCC's Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health. Johnalene Radek, whose family just recently joined CUCC, has also completed the Faith Community Nurses training through Carle and is now ready to serve CUCC alongside Linda Morgan.

Faith Community Nurse Covenant

Faith community nurses are licensed, registered nurses who focus on the specialized practice of intentional care of the body, mind, and spirit as the foundation of their practice. The Faith Community Nurse promotes whole-person health and prevention or minimization of illness within the context of a faith community and the wider community.

Faith Community Nursing looks different in each faith community based on the identified needs, resources of the church and community and each nurses' background and skills. The roles of the faith community nurse can include Integrator of Faith and Health, Health Educator, Health Counselor, Referral Agent, Trainer of Volunteers, and Health Care Navigator and Advocate.

The ways Linda and Johnalene will covenant with Community United Church of Christ at this time will include:

- Collaborate with the Health & Wellness Team to meet the evolving holistic health needs of the CUCC family
- Coordinating Visitors' Ministry for CUCC at home members including training volunteer visitors as needed
- Support persons who live alone through the Individuals Together group
- Periodic in church Blood Pressure checks when Public Health guidelines allow
- Coordinate hospital visits for CUCC members as requested
- Provide information about community social and health resources
- Assist with identifying congregants' musical preferences who might benefit from the Healing Music Ministry
- Participate in the UCC Wellness Ministries Leadership Team
- Continue to promote the Vial of Life program and understanding of Advanced Directives
- Partner with Jubilee Café to offer as needed health education and resources to guests

Linda Morgan



I took the Carle Faith Community Nursing class in the Fall of 2001 and started my Faith Community Nursing journey in January of 2002. In my almost 50-year nursing career, I practiced many kinds of nursing including Emergency Room, Intensive Care, Radiology, Home Health Care and Pre-op Scheduling. However, Faith Community Nursing has become one of my very favorite kinds of nursing. I love practicing nursing in this holistic way of providing care for the mind, body, and spirit. Although I am now retired, serving as an FCN was always in my retirement plan, and I look forward to spending the next part of this journey with CUCC's new FCN Johnalene Radek!

Johnalene Radek

I took the Carle Faith Community Nursing course in Spring of 2021. Faith Community Nursing is something I've wanted to do since 2005 when I first learned about the program. My 20 years of nursing has been in the Heart Transplant Unit, Trauma ICU and Cardiovascular ICU. I currently serve as Nurse Manager of Cardiovascular Med Surg and Cardiovascular ICU at Carle. It is absolutely an honor and privilege to serve our faith community, along with Linda. We care so much about your mind, body, and spirit. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to serve alongside Linda and meet each of you!



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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
8/2/2021	55
8/9/2021	55
8/16/2021	79
8/23/2021	87
8/30/2021	102
Meals Served	378

8/23/2021 – From Pastor Leah –

"Ma'am, could you come out and speak to me when you get a chance?" Miss J asked as she handed me her menu.

"Of course. We're real busy now, but I'll be there." Problems have plagued Miss J as of late. She wants to talk to me every week.

When it slowed down, I went out and sat with her on the concrete benches that create walkways, ramps, and stairs leading up to the 6th Street entrance of the church. They were installed as part of the '87 addition, and to be honest, they're rarely used. That is, they were rarely used until the pandemic hit. Since March of 2020, those benches have become the community hub of Jubilee Cafe. Guests sit and fill out their menus there. They eat. Tonight, Campus Ministry students gathered around one and offered donuts to passersby.

Miss J sat in her normal spot. I joined her. She kicked off her shoes (her two, different, mismatched shoes) and began to talk.

Let me make a most human, inelegant confession: her feet were so dirty, I had to look away. She kept touching her toes and adjusting her mask. Her dinner sat next to her, ready to be eaten with those same hands.

I never really think about Jesus washing people's feet, how so very gritty and humbling and human that action is, how that is what love looks like to him, and how we're called to do the same. I never really think of it. But tonight, I did as Miss J sat there all in a tizzy, overwhelmed by a problem she can't solve, a problem that confounds and compounds with every passing week. I thought of the way Jesus calls us to love the least of these. We sure try to love people like that. We don't always succeed.

At Jubilee Cafe CUCC this evening, we served 50 meat and 17 vegetarian Southwest Chicken (or "chik'n") pasta bakes. Both dishes were studded with farm fresh corn, peppers, and onions, and topped with cheese. Guests received garlic bread, sauteed garlic and greens, and had their choice of apple pie or house made bread pudding. We also gave out 20 heat at home meals, boxes and boxes of veggies from the farm, plus 150 donuts. Wow.



A postscript: after the meal, Jesus took the bread, broke it, and took the cup, then poured it out. He took ordinary things, and by God's grace, they became extraordinary. After the meal, he washed his friends' feet. And while I didn't wash Miss J's feet, I hope God took these ordinary things we offered, in love, and made them extraordinary too.

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Ministry Opportunities at CUCC Volunteers Needed

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up
Worship Team	Technical Help	Office Admin	infor@community-ucc.org	
Worship Team	Greeter	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters6
Worship Team	Usher	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-ushers1
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
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



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Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!

Wednesday, September 1 – Thursday, September 30



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

Thursday, September 2, 7:00am: Men's Monthly Breakfast at Urbana Garden Restaurant

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

September 7 – 9: CUCC Church Office Closed, Office Manager Carla Rush is on vacation

September 8, 7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

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

Sunday, September 12, 10:15am: Confirmation 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

Tuesday, September 14, 1:00pm: Hollaback Training for Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-LGBTQ+ Harassment

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

Sunday, September 19, 10:15am: Pride Sunday and Blessing of Pastor Leah's Sabbatical

Tuesday, September 21, 11:30am: CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Gathering at Houlihan's

Tuesday, September 21, 6:30pm: CLB

September 24-26: C-U Pride Fest

Saturday, September 25, 2021: Pastor Leah's last day of work

Sunday, September 26, 2021, 10:15am: Confirmation Class

Sunday, September 26, 2021, 10:15am: Stewardship Sunday

Monday, September 27, 9:00am: October eCommunigram articles due to Office Admin

Thursday, September 30, 9:00am: Sabbatical Guest Pastor Rev. Bill Lawser begins ministry with CUCC!

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	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=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=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTIV	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

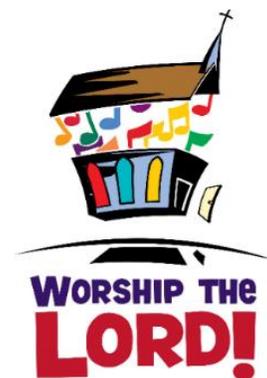


A note from your Music Director

I have just resumed my position as Music Director on August 23, and discussions have already begun to shape the fall season of music at CUCC. We are discussing what is possible with CLB and will change the plan as needed, but our first planned choir rehearsal for vaccinated singers will be Wed. Sept. 8 at 7PM in the sanctuary. We plan to sing masked, distanced, and limiting our time singing.

If you are vaccinated and interested in joining us, we would love to have you! Contact me with any questions you may have: music@community-ucc.org.

-Kathy Lee



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Worship Ministry Seeking Liturgists and Greeters

The Worship Ministry Team is seeking Liturgists, Greeters, and Ushers for September and October. Volunteer for one or all three of these positions by accessing the Sign-Up Genius Links below.

Greeter: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeters6>

The role of the greeter is to welcome folks as they arrive for worship on Sunday morning.



USHERS **Usher:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-ushers1>

The ushers escort folks into the sanctuary and ensure they are seated socially distanced from the group sitting in the pew in front and behind them. Directions are provided. Ushers also count and record the physical number of people attending a worship service.

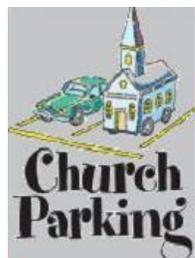
Hymn-sing Possibility

Dear church family,
Singing hymns together is a type of group worship that many of us have missed during the pandemic. If there is interest, CUCC may offer occasional outdoor hymn-sings before or after our traditional worship services. Please complete the following quick survey to share your favorite hymns with us and your level of interest in a hymn-sing: <https://forms.gle/EiYAns7sDHAq9w8P9>
Thank you!



Parking at Community United Church of Christ

Since we are back to in-person worship and have some new members in our midst, we thought we'd clarify our parking situation. On weekdays, we rent the parking spaces that are marked "Rental" to a variety of folks (university faculty, students, and staff as well as to area businesspersons). If you need to visit the church during the day (6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) on a weekday, please park in one of the "Church Visitor" spaces on the north side of the lot and then let Carla in the office know or leave a note for her if she isn't there (so she doesn't tow you!). On the weekend--and on Sunday mornings specifically--you should feel free to park in any space in the lot. There are two accessible spots on the northeast corner of the lot.



We also own the little house just to the west of the church as well as the adjacent gravel lot. We normally rent the house to university students and rent the gravel parking spaces, as with our other lot, to a variety of folks. However, the university is overhauling the parking garage next to that house and adding an elevator. To accomplish this, they will be doing extensive excavation in and around that area, so they have a 24/7 license to the house and parking area. So, while we typically can park in the gravel lot on Sunday mornings, we are not able to do that until August 2022.

Questions? Track down Grant Robbennolt (grantrobbennolt@hotmail.com).

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Mission Ministry Team

Hello from your Mission Team!

As most of you know, the Uniting Pride Center in C-U was one of the 3 top vote getters of local non-profits that we hoped to partner with in mission. A recent request from the UP Center was that members of our church consider helping them by acting as interference “for when we have people protesting our events in the name of Christianity. At a recent event, we had a man trying to hand out propaganda and harassing attendees about their ‘sinful lifestyles.’ Our employee, another board member, and I were able to sort of corral this man into just talking to us for a very long time. By doing this, we protected our performers and participants, but we missed the event we had worked hard to put on. If we had members of a church community who were able to talk to people like this with some authority at our events, it would be a very big help to us.”

We are intrigued with this idea, and really think it might offer us a way to show that we are “worth our words” as our logo says. If you are interested in possibly helping with this type of thing from time to time (and possibly at the upcoming PRIDE celebration in late September, could you please let us know? We want to offer people some training before putting church members in this situation, and one option that has come to our attention is offered by a group called Hollaback! They offer a free 1-hour online training that enables bystanders to intervene when they see harassment. We strongly encourage you to sign up if you are able. They give the training regularly, and the next training will be on **Tuesday, September 14th at 1:00 CST**. You must register if you want to participate. To do so, go to the website ihollaback.org. On the menu button at the top left of the webpage, use the drop down to go to “Get Trained”. From there, scroll down to the training that is called “Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-LGBTQ+ Harassment”, and click the link to sign up for the free training. We hope to have a number of folks trained in order to meet these needs when they come up.

Let us know what questions you have! We look forward to more conversation about this!

Thanks!

Jeanne

Jeanne Ward jeawa@comcast.net 217-840-0668

Kristy Brownfield klmel04@gmail.com 217-246-8571

Ramona Oswald roswald@illinois.edu 217-649-9651



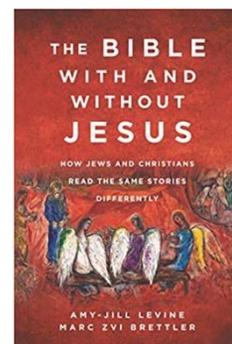
Pub Theology

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

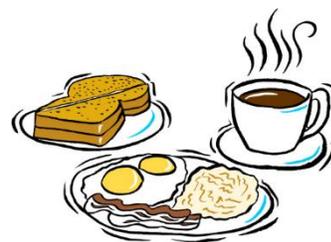
wardt508@comcast.net



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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. Our next gathering is Thursday, September 2 at Urbana Garden Restaurant. It will be great to see you all again.



~Tom Ward

wardt508@comcast.net

CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group

We will be meeting on Tuesday, September 21st, 11:30 a.m. OUTSIDE on the patio at Houlihan's, 1900 S. First Street, Champaign. Please pray for no rain!!

~ Peg and Roger Wade



Hospitality Team

From Your Hospitality Team...

CUCC had another successful Quad Day "hot dog giveaway day". Pastor Leah was on hand busy welcoming the students and handing out You Are Loved stickers. Twenty volunteers handed out 440 hot dogs and cups of ice water on Sunday, August 22nd. Pastor Nate and Campus Ministry students also set up a tent and welcomed students to campus. It was a fun event for both the inside workers and the outside workers, and I am quite sure that the students enjoyed the welcome back to campus. A BIG thank you to everyone that helped!

September 12th is CUCC's annual Ride Bikes/Drive Cars/Kickball-Playground-Relax and Visit/Pizza/Sidney Dairy Barn Ice Cream Event. *You won't want to miss it!*

Here is the schedule for this enjoyable 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 you can purchase and more visiting

-Randy Musser & Peg Wade

Community Building/Hospitality Co-Chairs



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Children and Family Ministry

Hi CUCC Families!

It was wonderful to see so many kids' (partial) faces at Worship in the Park! I hope all have had a successful start to the school year.



We will be returning to in-person Sunday School on September 12th. We will have bibles for kids who don't have them to hand out during the service, then we will gather for a short lesson and activity. Thank you to those who have let me know your plans for the fall. I know it's a stressful time for parents with kids under 12, who are venturing into classrooms every day. Don't feel bound by the response you gave in the Sunday School form you filled out earlier in the summer. If your level of comfortability has changed, and you would like materials sent home, please feel free to email me at jemclure4@gmail.com.



Are you interested in helping with Sunday School? I'm looking for a few more folks to help lead activities and support. Plans and materials will be provided! If you'd like to serve in some way, please let me know through this form: <https://forms.gle/KAw1M2nFa4ZrcD1S9>.

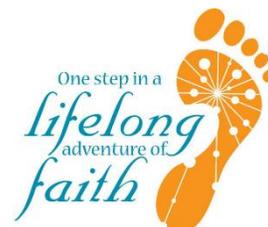
~ Julie McClure



Youth Group

We have an exciting schedule for our youth (6th -12th grade) this fall!

Our Confirmation Kickoff is scheduled for August 29th. We have eight Confirmands this year. Watch for upcoming eCommunigrams which will introduce our Confirmands.



Confirmands will meet every 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday of the month during the worship service. Confirmands will remain in worship on the 1st Sunday of the month and are invited to participate in Youth (6th - 12th grade) Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

We will have a youth group event every second Sunday of each month. More details to come soon!

I will be sure to include information in the weekly updates, so you know the planned activities for youth each week.

Youth Schedule: Fall/Spring Monthly Schedule

1st Sunday: Youth are invited to attend worship

2nd Sunday: Confirmation class - held during worship

Youth Group Event: (open to all 6th-12th graders)

3rd Sunday: Youth Sunday School (open to all 6th-12th graders)

4th Sunday: Confirmation class - held during worship

5th Sunday (Oct. 31, Jan. 30) Confirmation class - held during worship

Confirmation Class Dates:

2021

September 12th, 26th

October 10th, 24th, 31st

November 14th, 28th

December 12th (We will not meet on the 26th)

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2022

January 9th, 23rd, 30th

February 13th, 27th

March 13th, 27th

April 10th, 24th

We have a limited number of class dates, and each class covers something new – please keep your absences to a minimum so you don't miss out!

Confirmation Workshop Dates for Confirmands and Sponsors:

January 9th (following worship until 2:00 p.m.)

February 6th (following worship until 2:00 p.m.)

March 6th (following worship until 2:00 p.m.)

April 24th (following worship until 2:00 p.m.)

Confirmands will have one-on-one meetings with Pastor Leah to review their Statements of Faith and Inquiry the week following April 24.

Confirmation Sunday: May 8, 2022

Fall Adult Retreat

*Illinois Conference, UCC Outdoor
Ministries*

Fall Adult Retreat

*Pre-retirement and Retirement: A
Spiritual Path*

Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center

Sunday, October 24th through

Tuesday, October 26

Leader: Rev. Jeffrey Phillips

There are many ways to think about our pre-retirement and retirement years. This retreat will help participants consider these stages of life from a spiritual perspective as we reflect on thoughts from Anne Lamott's recent book *Dusk, Night, Dawn*, and engage in various contemplative practices.

Our time together will include contemplation, community activities, rest, silence, adventures in nature, and fun! You can benefit from this retreat whether you are years away from retirement or many years into retirement. Participants will be encouraged to read one of Lamott's essays before the retreat.

The theme of retreat is "a spiritual path", what and why? We will cover various stages of life in world religions, cultures, and literature with small group conversations on your individual stage of life.

Our retreat leader Rev. Jeffrey Phillips is a UCC pastor and certified interfaith / interspiritual spiritual companion. Participants will each have the option to spend thirty minutes with Jeffrey in a spiritual companionship session.

This introspective retreat starts at our Tower Hill Retreat Center in Sawyer Michigan on Sunday October 24th and ends after lunch on Tuesday October 26th. All meals are covered with exception of Monday evening dinner where guests are encouraged to either prepare their own meal or visit one of the many local restaurants.

Cost for this retreat: \$300 for single occupancy, \$200 per guest for double occupancy. Tower Hill is planning to house guests in their 5 separate cottages. For additional information call Tower Hill direct at 269-426-3881.

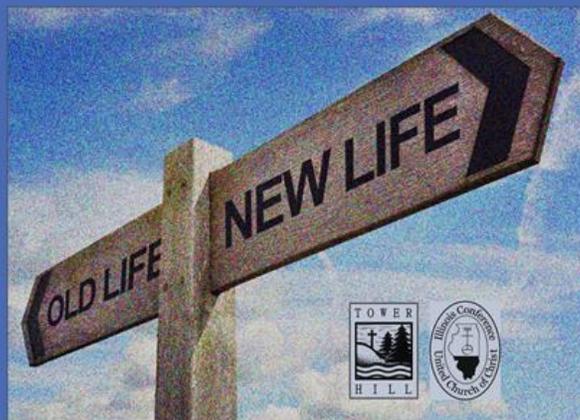
Space is limited. To register online: <https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com/>

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Fall Adult Retreat October 24th to 26th Pre-retirement and Retirement: a Spiritual Path

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UCC issues \$100,000 appeal for Haiti after 7.2 earthquake, tropical storm

Article written by [Connie Larkman](#) | published on Aug 16, 2021



Photo credit: Voice of America, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

The United Church of Christ is issuing a call to action to help the people of Haiti. A [massive 7.2 earthquake](#) on Saturday (8/14/2021) has killed nearly 1,300 people. Search and rescue efforts are expected to be hampered by Tropical Depression Grace, which came ashore on Monday.

“The island of Haiti suffered major damages and loss of life from an earthquake this weekend (8/14/2021),” said the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, associate general minister, [Wider Church Ministries](#) and Operations. “We are issuing an appeal through the [Global H.O.P.E.](#) team to raise funds to assist in Haiti in any ways that we can, short-term, and also to assist with long-term recovery needs.

“We hold our partners and Haitian siblings in our thoughts and prayers through this time of suffering.”

State of emergency

The storm threatens to bring heavy rains, flooding, and landslides to Haiti, where thousands have been displaced from destroyed or damaged homes. Hospitals are overloaded, with at least 2,800 people injured in the quake.

These dual natural disasters struck just over a month after Haiti’s president was shot to death at home, sending the country into political chaos.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry declared a one-month state of emergency in Haiti, rushing aid to areas where towns were destroyed, and hospitals overwhelmed. “The most important thing is to recover as many survivors as possible under the rubble,” Henry told [CBS News](#). “We have learned that the local hospitals are overwhelmed with wounded, fractured people.”

Haiti’s Office of Civil Protection on Sunday said more than 7,000 homes were destroyed and nearly 5,000 damaged, along with hospitals, schools, offices, and churches.

Immediate, long-term help

The UCC appeal hopes to raise \$100,000 to assist the people of Haiti through this crisis.

“The purpose of the appeal is to support immediate relief efforts assisting survivors as well as to have resources for long-term rebuild opportunities,” said Joshua Baird, team leader of Global H.O.P.E. “Support will be channeled in multiple ways, including through bilateral partners whose relationship is held by Global Ministries, as well as through Church World Service and the ACT Alliance.”

Baird was in touch with the partner networks on Monday and said that the [ACT Alliance](#) reports that more than 60-percent of the people of Haiti have been impacted by the disaster. Both the ACT Alliance and [Church World Service](#) have spoken about “significant infrastructure challenges,” with road closures due to civil unrest compounded by earthquake damage.

Water, first aid are priorities

[Global Ministries](#)’ partners assessing the situation point to immediate needs for water, with the corruption of water tanks, and first aid, noting there are not enough hospital beds in existing, structurally safe facilities.

Haitians are coping with all of these challenges in the midst of a pandemic. Until [mid-July](#), Haiti was the only country in the Americas without COVID-19 vaccines. While 500,000 doses have been donated by the U.S. government through COVAX, supplies are still limited.

U.S. President Joe Biden has authorized immediate disaster assistance to Haiti, naming USAID Administrator Samantha Power to oversee the U.S effort.

Pope Francis on Sunday offered prayers for people of Haiti and called for the solidarity of the international community “to help alleviate the consequences of the tragedy.”

Click the link and scroll to bottom of page to make a financial donation through Global H.O.P.E.

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-issues-100000-appeal-for-haiti-after-7-2-earthquake-tropical-storm/>

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Contact CUCC:

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday | 9am - 3pm