



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-Communigram

Volume 60, Issue 11– November 1 - 30

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

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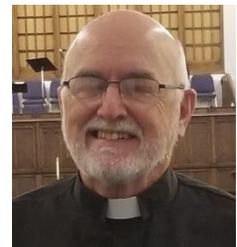
Bytes from Bill

Wow! It has been a month since I began to serve as Guest Pastor for CUCC. I am grateful for the many ways the congregation has welcomed me and helped me learn about activities and processes and who does what. I am impressed with the resilience and flexibility of the congregation's leaders in finding ways to continue ministry and mission while also maintaining pandemic protocols. I am in awe of all those who ensure that we are able to participate in worship 3 ways each week. In person, on Zoom and on Facebook. There is a leadership book titled Building the Bridge As You Walk On It, and our tech team has been doing that as well as looking to the future to help improve both live streaming services and sanctuary video capabilities. This congregation can be proud of the continuing mission of Jubilee Café and the commitment of so many to provide this weekly meal. Even while hearing how in person served meals in the Fellowship Hall are greatly missed, energy and enthusiasm by both kitchen workers and vestibule distribution volunteers continues.

Knowing that maintaining congregational relationships is important, it is commendable that leaders of various fellowship and study groups are providing a variety of ways for there to be both in person and online activities. As a congregation, you are showing me that even though we are practicing caution in light of the pandemic, concern for each other and the greater community has shed light on the imaginations you possess for effective ministry and mission in Champaign/Urbana and surrounding area. I am looking forward to the next two months and the seasonal celebrations to come.

Blessings,
Bill

Rev. William Bill Lawser



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Moderator Musings

November already?

I still have zucchini and basil, but it's almost December, and your Church Life Board is starting to think about next year's budget. Imagine me saying this in a very cheerful tone of voice: We lost a big chunk (nearly 10%) of our income this summer and will be thinking hard about how to handle that. We need to create the budget based on the pledges we get, so if you plan to pledge, please do so this month. If you've made gifts in the past but not pledged, it's really helpful if you can pledge - we can't plan around income we don't know about.

Warm Regards,
Elizabeth Shack, Moderator



Sunday, November 7

Sunday, November 7, 2021, is going to be a full day at Community United Church of Christ as there will be multiple things taking place during worship this Sunday.

This is the day that Daylight Savings Time ends so be sure to set your clocks back one hour before retiring for the evening Saturday or you will arrive early for worship on Sunday!



Sunday, November 7 is the day we remember those unique and inspirational people who have been a part of our lives, the saints who have gone before us as part of our All Saints worship service. You are encouraged to bring photos or keepsakes of loved ones who have passed away, and we will light candles in their memory.

If you would like the names of your loved ones who have passed away to be read as part of the worship service please let Carla know by calling or emailing the office at 217-344-5091 or info@community-ucc.org with the name(s) of your loved ones to be included in the service by **Wednesday, November 3**.



Sunday, November 7 is In-Gathering Sunday. Please bring your pledge card to worship with you so it can be blessed with all of the other pledge cards turned in on this day. We will celebrate total pledges on Sunday, November 21.



Finally, all of the saints at CUCC and those on Facebook and Zoom will gather around the Lord's Table to celebrate Holy Communion on this first Sunday in November. What a full day of worship. We hope you will join us, either in person or online.

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Let's Decorate the Church for Advent



Did you miss decorating the church for Advent last year and being in the Sanctuary to see our giant lit Christmas tree with the beautiful handmade Christmas ornaments? If so, we hope you will join the Worship and Hospitality Teams to decorate CUCC this year for the Advent Season.

Since the first Sunday in Advent is the Sunday after Thanksgiving, we will plan to decorate sometime after church on **Sunday, November 21st**. The exact time and details will be shared with you very soon.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 21st**, and we will send out more info shortly. There will be fun and decorating for all ages - and yes, of course we will have Christmas music playing!

Thanks!

-Chase Skye and Susan Pawlicki, Worship Co-Chairs

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

Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas

Poinsettias can be ordered in memory or honor of a loved one or someone special. They are placed around the sanctuary to enhance the festiveness of worship. Order forms will be available in church bulletins every Sunday in November.

The deadline for ordering your Poinsettia(s) will be



Looking Ahead: Baptism of our Lord



Sunday, January 9 is the day we remember the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you been baptized? Has everyone in your family been baptized?

Would you like to be baptized? Pastor Leah will be back from Sabbatical and will be presiding over the baptism(s).

If you are interested in being baptized or having someone (a child) in your family baptized on January 9, please contact Carla in the church office at 217-334-5091 or by email at info@community-ucc.org.

And yes, Pastor Leah will have Epiphany Stars, with your word for the year, for everyone on January 9 too! This is quite the tradition here at CUCC.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us as this will be quite a celebration that you will not want to miss.

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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
10/4/2021	104
10/11/2021	109
10/18/2021	110
10/25/2021	96
Meals Served	419

Anna Barnes, Kitchen Manager Reflections October 4, 2021: Jubilee Café turned four tonight, but it was a bittersweet celebration. As I photographed one of the birthday cakes, I couldn't help but notice all the name tags in the background. They belonged to the many volunteers from when we served in the dining room, pre-COVID. Tonight, was our second birthday without most of them. Some have graduated, at least one is busy taking care of patients at Carle, others have gone from waiting on our guests to helping cook them dinner in the kitchen.



Thankfully tonight we had extra help from some of CUCC's Campus Ministry students because the number of people coming to our door has now surpassed the highs we saw in the early days of the pandemic. Tonight, we served 109 meals: 15 heat at home and 94 chicken/veggie chicken and noodles (thank you Ellen Willcox for rolling and cutting so many noodles from scratch and Jiayi Huang for cooking the chicken and making all the roux). We also had biscuits thanks to David Willcox with house made strawberry jam, mixed vegetables, and of course plenty of birthday cake beautifully decorated by Paul Kordik with an endless supply of buttercream made by Ellen. In keeping with our annual tradition, we also gave out \$5 gift cards to our guests.

This afternoon was sad for another reason. We learned that one of CUCC's own had passed. Over the last year, several of us took turns making special meals for Rob during his illness. It was strange not to be sending dinner to him tonight.

Because I manage the kitchen, I rarely get to see the folks we serve these days. I miss being able to sneak out of the kitchen to say hi to folks in the dining room and ask them what their favorite foods are so that we can work them into our weekly menus to bring them a little joy.

I got a chance to meet Rob in person a couple of weeks back when CUCC participated in the Pride Parade. He surprised us all when he showed up to ride in the pickup truck. He told me that he loved the desserts we sent him every week even if he was "not really supposed to be eating sweets." He also spoke about the loneliness of battling cancer during the pandemic and how happy he was to be participating in the parade. I was so hoping that we'd still be sending Rob meals next year. I know that he would have loved tonight's cake.

Maybe next year we'll be able to be together and sing "Happy Birthday." In the meantime, if you are handy with a knife, or if washing dishes is your jam, we can always use more help in the kitchen on Monday afternoons because the number of people coming to our door isn't showing any sign of decreasing.

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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-greeter
Worship Team	Usher	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-usher
Worship Team	Hymn Leaders & Other Music for Worship	Music Director	music@community-ucc.org	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VRO-hpyuH5Exp52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HZxzhefK7nlass/edit?usp=sharing
Prayer Team	Team Member	Office Admin	Info@community-ucc.org	
Children's Ministry	Event Planner/Leader	Julie McClure	jemclure4@gmail.com	
Jubilee Café	Meal Prep, Cook, Clean-up	Johnell Bentz	johnell.bentz@gmail.com	https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer



Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!
Monday, November 1 – Tuesday, November 30



Thursday, November 4, 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Urbana Garden Restaurant

Sunday, November 7: Daylight Saving Time ends – Set clocks back one hour

Sunday November 7, 10:15am: All Saints Sunday worship with remembrance of loved ones who have died in the past year.

Sunday, November 7, 10:15am: Stewardship In-Gathering of Pledge Cards

Tuesday, November 9, 10:00am: Building Resiliency in Yourself and Your Organization, registration required

Thursday, November 11, 6:30pm: Understanding Alzheimer's Disease hosted by CUCC's Health and Wellness Ministry Team

Sunday, November 14, 10:15am: Confirmation Class

Tuesday, November 16, 11:30am: CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Gathering

Tuesday, November 16, 6:30pm: CUCC CLB Monthly Meeting

Sunday, November 21, 10:15am: Thanksgiving Celebration of Pledge Total

Sunday, November 21, TBD: Let's Decorate CUCC for Advent and Christmas

Monday, November 22, 9:00am: Articles for December eCommunigram due to Office Manager

Thursday, November 25: CUCC Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Sunday, November 28, 10:15am: All Youth (6th -12th graders) are invited to participate in Sunday School (FH)

Be sure to check the CUCC Facebook page for updates.



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Sunday, November 7 – Remember to turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night before retiring for the evening, or you will arrive an hour early for worship.

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=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTVIV	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

A note from your Music Director

CHOIR

Advent and Christmas music are right around the corner, and we'd love to have you join us! Choir is gathering in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7PM to rehearse and record anthems to stream during services. We sing masked, distanced, and for limited amounts of time in one space. If you are vaccinated and interested in participating, we would love to have you join us!

OTHER MUSIC

I am eager to include new instruments, hymn leaders, and other musical ideas into our schedule. Please let me know if you have a musical gift to share: music@community-ucc.org. Thank you for considering joining our music community!

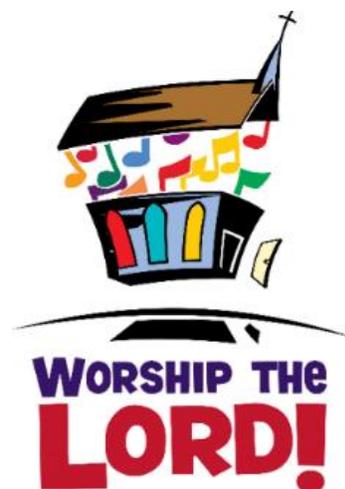
APPRECIATION

And finally, a note of huge appreciation to our Sound Team and Jennifer Cromley who are all learning new skills on the job to make our music possible. THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

-Kathy Lee

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Mission Ministry Team

Greetings from your Mission Team!

We have a few exciting things to report to you this month! First of all, you all are amazing! During our UP-Center Love Offering, members of the congregation contributed \$578, which means that we will be able to access the full \$500 matching funds from one of our generous families, for a grand total of \$1078! We will get this check off to the UP Center soon, and we know it will be appreciated! Thank you so much for your generosity and support!

By next month's Communigram, we will have totals of your gifts for the Neighbors in Need special offering - so be watching for that! We thank you for your generosity toward this important national UCC resource as well!

Another opportunity recently came to us, from the First Congregational Church (UCC) in Decatur. They are working with a new Decatur based organization called "Afghan Welcome Home Project of Central Illinois" that is working to aid 13,000 Afghan refugees currently being housed at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin. While ultimately, they hope to help resettle several of these families here in central Illinois, at the moment, the most immediate need is to get these families and individuals much needed clothing for the increasingly colder days and nights. We will be finding out more about those future opportunities to help resettle families soon, but in the meantime, we are hoping that you may be able to help with many of these items that are already needed. **This does not necessarily mean buying something (although it could if you'd like), but instead, looking around your homes for clothing and other items on the list below that are gently used.** They are happy to accept either new items or used items that are in good shape - but only items on the list please! We will have a well labeled collection box in the area right outside the back doors of the sanctuary, and whenever we have a critical mass of items, we'll make a run over to Decatur to deliver them. At present, church members in Decatur are driving up to Wisconsin every other week with deliveries.

Here is what they are looking for:

- 1. Men's, Women's, and Children's Shoes and Socks:** Closed toe shoes, tennis shoes, boots. No dress shoes, No Sandals, No flip flops. New or slightly worn with no holes and good soles. Please put at least one pair of properly sized socks in each pair of shoes. (Men size 8-11, Women size 7-10, Children's Boys and Girls all sizes)
- 2. Women's Clothing:** Long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters - size 6 - 12. small, medium, large, Long Skirts - size 6 - 12, small, medium, large, long pants - Size 6 - 12, small, medium, large (include belt if pants have belt loops), Coats, hats, gloves - small, medium, large
- 3. Men's Clothing:** Long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters - small, medium, large, long pants - size 30 - 36, small, medium, large (include belt if pants have belt loops), Coats, hats, gloves - small medium large
- 4. Children's Clothing:** Boys and Girls, needed in sizes newborn on up, long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters - all children's sizes, Long pants - all children's sizes (include a belt if pants have belt loops), Coats, hats, Gloves - all children sizes
- 5. Wagons:** New or lightly used - able to carry children or personal items
- 6. Children's Toys:** New or lightly used, clean: soccer balls, stuffed animals, tricycles, bicycles, scooters, trucks, cars, baby dolls, coloring books and crayons, children's books, any other children's toys, NO BOARD GAMES
- 7. Lawn Chairs:** New or used in good working order
- 8. Baby Strollers:** New or used, clean and in good working order
- 9. Electric Hot Water Pots:** New or used, clean and in good working order
- 10. Suitcases:** Medium and large size, new or used

Of course, we are continuing to collect items for Camionoes, Underwear for Canteen Run, and Art materials for the UP Center. Remember to put these items in the bins in the old entryway of the church (by the parlor).

And finally, just a word: We know that it may seem as if we are constantly asking you for donations of goods and/or money. We see our role as putting opportunities before you - we know that many of you love to help meet the many needs in our communities and beyond but are looking for concrete ways to do so. We don't expect that you will be able to help with every single thing we put before you. But we hope that some of these options will resonate with you, and you will find you are able to help meet these needs in ways that work for you. All of your efforts are very much appreciated!

Thanks, Jeanne, Kristy, and Ramona

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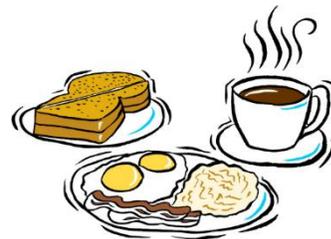


Men's Breakfast

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, November 4 at Urbana Garden Restaurant. It will be great to see everyone.

~Tom Ward

wardt508@comcast.net



CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group

Sixteen retirees enjoyed having lunch and visiting together on Tuesday, October 19th at the Black Dog Smoke & Ale House in Champaign. The CUCC Retiree's plan to meet Tuesday, November 16th, 11:30am (3rd Tuesday of the month) – location TBD.

~ Peg and Roger Wade

Health and Wellness

Nov 9 -- Building Resiliency in Yourself and Your Organization (zoom) @ 10 AM

Every one of us has been challenged by a tough situation sometime in our lives. We have witnessed highly resilient people that have the ability to adapt, recover, and grow stronger from difficult situations. In this lesson, learn what characteristics resilient people and organizations possess that help them create opportunities from challenges, and how you can also nurture and strengthen your resilience.

This program is offered by the *University of Illinois Extension*. Register:

<https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/511564727>



Nov 11, 2021 - Understanding Alzheimer's Disease - (zoom) 6:30-7:30/8:00 (depending on discussion and questions)

This program will help participants learn more about Alzheimer's disease and the disease process. We can also discuss common communication problems caused by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and strategies for better interactions and visits with friends/loved ones.

This program is offered by *CUCC's Health and Wellness Team*. The Zoom link information is listed below.



<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/85088075590?pwd=OWlQODRhNzljNlplHRGJoOHdGdCtWQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 8807 5590

Password: CUCC

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Youth Group



We are enjoying our time together in Youth Sunday School and Confirmation classes. We are learning more about what it means to be a Progressive Christian. We have been focusing on what it means to be a community and learning from Jesus' example in terms of being accepting and kind to everyone.

We have had some great discussions and conversations on how we can demonstrate kindness and love to everyone.

Our schedule for November is below:

November 7: Youth are invited to remain in worship

November 14: Confirmation class starts at 10:15 a.m.

November 21: Youth are invited to remain in worship

November 28: All youth (6th-12th graders) are invited to participate in Sunday School following the children's moment



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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