



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-Communigram

Volume 60, Issue 12—December 1 -31

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

[Bytes from Bill](#) • [Moderator Musings](#) • [Community United Church of Christ COVID-19 Protocols](#) • [Longest Night Worship](#) • [Christmas Eve Worship](#) • [Advent reflections and practices](#) • [Looking Ahead: Baptism of our Lord](#) • [Update from Stewardship Co-Chairs Larry Lee and Jonathan Ebel](#) • [Campus Ministry](#) • [Jubilee Café](#) • [Ministry Opportunities at CUCC](#) • [Upcoming One-Time Events](#) • [Weekly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC](#) • [A note from your Music Director](#) • [Mission Ministry Team](#) • [Men's Breakfast](#) • [CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group](#) • [Individuals Together](#) • [Health and Wellness](#) • [Community Building/Hospitality Team](#) • [CUCC Cookbook](#) • [Children and Family Ministry](#) • [Youth Group](#) • [Outdoor Ministry](#)



Bytes from Bill

Just like the weather has changed and summer became Autumn and Autumn will soon be winter, we have turned the page. We have completed a church year and begun a new one. The Sanctuary at CUCC has been decorated with greenery, wreaths, a tree, and stars. The season of Advent has begun. We are in the midst of these four weeks of preparation, anticipation, waiting for Christmas to come and the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Each week as we light the Advent Wreath in worship, we focus on one of the four Advent Themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Each year, I find myself humming tunes of the season, enjoying the light displays on homes around town, looking forward to the scents of baking cookies and treats, lighting candles, decorating the tree, watching Christmas movies, and remembering moments of Advent and Christmases past.

The other day I was thinking about Barbara Robinson's book, [The Best Christmas Pageant Ever](#), and how the Herdman kids came to church because they heard that there were always cookies, cakes, and snacks. When it was discovered that they had never heard the Gospel stories of Jesus nativity, the mom in charge of the pageant reads the story and there are wonderful moments when they hear and react on hearing the story for the first time. One of my favorite moments is when it is shared that "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Imogene Herdman then exclaims, "He'd never get out of first grade if he'd had to write all that." Good point, Imogene.

While searching my bookshelves for a resource this past weekend, I found a songbook from my young adult years. In the churches I was a part of at that time, much of the contemporary songs we were singing were written by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh, the Pastor and Church Musician of a church in upstate New York. One of their Advent Songs is called Hey! Hey! Anybody Listening?

Hey! Hey! Anybody Listening? Hey! Hey! Anybody there?
Hey! Hey! Anybody Listening? Anybody Care:
We've got Good News, Good News, Good News, Good News
Christ the Lord will soon be found here!
Good News, Good News, Good News, Good News
Let's help spread the news around here!
If I had a drum I'd drum it, a mandolin, I'd strum it,
A hummingbird hum, I'd hum it.

[Back to Top](#)

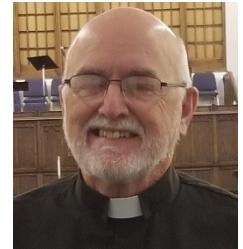
If I had a harp I'd twang it, a tambourine, I'd bang it,
a fireman's bell, I'd clang it.
If I had a chime, I'd ring it, a finger cymbal, ching it,
We've got this song, Let's sing it,
Everywhere, everywhere, everywhere, everywhere
Hey! Hey! Anybody Listening?

We have a story to tell and songs to sing. It is my Advent and Christmas hope for all of you that you find many moments to remember the stories, share the stories, remember the songs, sing the songs all in preparation for a joyous celebration of Christmas this year.

Peace and Joy be yours,
Bill



Rev. William Bill Lawser



Moderator Musings

Ah, December...month of Christmas carols, cookies, and... budget meetings. CLB is meeting Dec 12 to plan for next year, so if you plan to pledge and haven't, please do so soon.

As we move into the last month of the year, it's good to see things becoming more and more normal. While the pandemic isn't over, we've been able to gather in person again, and soon we'll be singing. Thank you all for your patience this autumn as we've tried to navigate the best way to worship in-person safely.



Community United Church of Christ COVID-19 Protocols

Draft Date: November 16, 2021

As more becomes known about the coronavirus, Community United Church of Christ (CUCC) has developed the following protocols for church-related activities. These protocols are subject to change at any time.

Small Group Interactions:

- Masking and social distancing should be observed at all times.
- CUCC small groups (adults) can gather in the Parlor or Fellowship Hall using the marked off locations.
- Staff should wear masks and practice social distancing at all times while in the building unless one person is alone in an office with a door that closes.
- Groups can meet in a restaurant subject to then-current Health Department limits and protocols.
- Indoor choir rehearsals are permitted in the Sanctuary but should be limited to one hour.

[Back to Top](#)

- Jubilee Café should continue offering drive-up service exclusively.
- CUCC groups (including those for kids and adults) of any size can gather outside, including groups of singers (choir, caroling).

In-Person Worship:

- In-person worship is only possible while we are in the State of Illinois “Bridge to Phase 5” or Phase 5.
- Masks and social distancing requirements must be observed. Persons from more than one household can sit together provided all such persons are comfortable doing so.
- No congregational singing or group recitation, except: Short, responsive prayers are acceptable. The final hymn of the service may be sung by the congregation (while masked).
- Vaccinated worship leaders may remove their masks while speaking from the pulpit or lectern.
- The choir can sing from the chancel provided all members are vaccinated and masked and the first four rows of pews are roped off.
- Vaccinated, masked soloists can sing from the choir loft and a single vaccinated, masked soloist can sing from the chancel without requiring pews to be roped off.
- The duration of the service will be 60 minutes or less.
- No offering plates, shared sacraments, or physical contact.
- Post-worship socialization can take place inside or outside; no food or drink will be provided at this time.
- Kids in confirmation or Sunday School may meet so long as they are masked and distanced.
- To maintain social distancing, our sanctuary capacity is 100.
- People will be seated by an usher on high volume Sundays to ensure social distancing; they will be released by row to avoid bunching in the center aisle.

Important:

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

Resources:

- [A Bridge to Phase 5 \(illinois.gov\)](#)
- [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC](#)
- [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People | CDC](#)
- [Considerations for Communities of Faith | CDC](#)

Warm Regards,
Elizabeth Shack, Moderator

[Back to Top](#)

Longest Night Worship

December 12, 6:30 pm

Join us on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 6:30pm for a time of worship and reflection during what we are told is “*the most wonderful time of the year.*” We know the holidays are a time of deep struggle for many. This reality need not be ignored – at this worship service we name it and turn to God and our community for hope. The name for this worship service comes from the season in December when we experience the shortest day and longest night of the year. But the name also applies to the feeling that many of us have about this season. This year with all we are facing,

perhaps more of us than ever before will share in this feeling. Advent, December, and winter in general this year will be hard. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, Christmas Eve, or New Year’s Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. For some the grief of Christmas not being how it has always been, will be too much. For others, the continuing pandemic and politics will weigh heavily. In this worship service, we will light candles and sing some songs appropriate to the season, recognizing that this is not necessarily a season of joy. We will invite you to meditate on the pain and anguish you may bring, and to offer your pain to the Christ child. Join us in person in the sanctuary for this service and stay tuned for news about the service being streamed on Facebook Live. *If the service is streamed on Facebook, the video may be loss due to the low lighting and candlelight at times leaving just the audio portion of the service.*



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 6:30 pm

We will gather in the Sanctuary for our traditional Christmas Eve worship service on Friday, December 24, 2021, at 6:30pm. Stay tuned for news about the service being streamed on Facebook Live and Zoom. *If the service is streamed on Facebook and Zoom, the video may be loss due to the low lighting and candlelight at times leaving just the audio portion of the service.* We hope you join us in person as the choir is preparing a special anthem and of course the congregation will be singing Silent Night to end the worship service with lit candles. It should be a beautiful and meaning filled worship service that we all missed so much in 2020.

Advent reflections and practices

Pastor Connie, Sue Osborne, and their friend Barbara England invite you to join them on their blog, Spirit on the Prairie (<https://spiritontheprairie.blogspot.com/>) during Advent for reflections on "Heart Songs," looking at the various canticles (songs) in the first few chapters of the Gospel of Luke. A new post will go up each Sunday and on Christmas featuring photography by Sue, reflections from Connie, and practices created and curated by Barbara. We hope to provide a variety of materials that speak to the topic in different ways, so that you can create your own Advent practice. That might be a quick check-in once a week or several visits over the course of the week, sampling different resources. You don't need to sign up, and there's no charge-- this is our gift of love. We do hope that you will comment and interact with others who do so that this becomes even more of a collaboration!

Looking Ahead: Baptism of our Lord



January 9, 2022, is the day the church rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters, the rivers, the fire." *words from ELCA SundayandSeasons*

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.



Update from Stewardship Co-Chairs Larry Lee and Jonathan Ebel

We opened our stewardship campaign on September 26th this year, focusing on the Feast of Hope that the many ministries of Community United Church of Christ prepare for future generations. With beautiful materials designed by Keri Evans and heartfelt testimonials provided by Maureen Schuler, Erin Ewoldt, Kristin Johnson, Doug Irwin, Julie McClure, and Ann Hart, we reached the CUCC community with the written and the spoken word. Thank you to all who had a hand in writing the stewardship brochure and to those who prepared and/or delivered stewardship packets, including Ann Hart, Chase Skye, Marilou Hinrichs, Peg and Roger Wade, and Tom and Jeanne Ward. Carla Rush was central to this effort, and many, many hands contributed. Last year's co-chairs, Marilou Hinrichs and Elizabeth Shack provided invaluable guidance along the way, as did Financial Secretary David Willcox and Treasurer Roger Wade.

At In-gathering Sunday, we blessed the pledges and encouraged those who had not yet pledged to prayerfully consider doing so. Thanksgiving Sunday brought an announcement of the pledged total to date. As of today, eight days beyond Thanksgiving Sunday the totals are:

Pledges made: 41

Pledged total: \$164,895

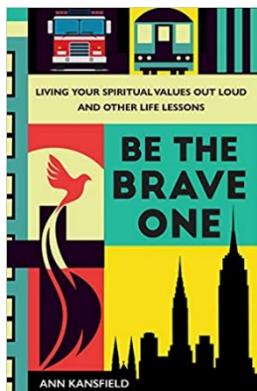
We celebrate the generosity of the CUCC community and at the same time hope that more of you will pledge your support for CUCC in the coming year. We are roughly \$40,000 behind where we would like to be to match the 2021 budget and to make up for the rental income that we will no longer receive. If you are a regular pledger and have not made your pledge yet this year, please do so by December 9. If you are a regular giver, please help CUCC plan for the coming year by turning your gift into a

pledge. The online pledge form can be found at: community-ucc.org. You can also mail the pledge card that you received in your stewardship packet to the church office, "Attention: Financial Secretary."

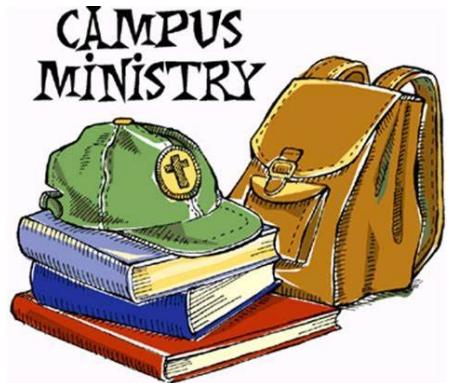
We will be reaching out in the coming days to past pledgers who have not yet pledged. For now, we want to thank everyone who has contributed to this important effort and who has helped prepare a Feast of Hope for the future of CUCC.

Campus Ministry

Greetings CUCC from Campus Ministry! Our Queering Faith speaker for 2022 will be friend of CUCC Rev. Ann Kansfield! Her new book "Be the Brave One" is out now. CUCC Campus Ministry will be selling her book ahead of the holidays if you would like to put in an order. Proceeds from the sale go to help fund our ministry. I also want to thank you for your ongoing support of our students. There are many ways that CUCC members can come alongside our students this year. Some members have hosted CUCC students for after worship hangouts and those are always fun for everyone involved and we have plenty of openings in the new year. We are also planning our winter retreat and if you would like to help underwrite the cost for a student, please let me know. Lastly, feel free to say hello to students in worship. Your kind and accepting words can go a long way towards making students feel safe and at home.



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



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
11/1/2021	90
11/8/2021	79
11/15/2021	74
11/22/2021	37
11/29/2021	90
Meals Served	370

Jubilee Café Seeking Donations of Winter Clothing

November 15, 2021: It's COLD!! And no, we're not complaining. We serve food with love, meant to warm the hearts of our guests. Tonight, we served chili to 74 guests.

But when it's cold, they need more. We're asking you to help us again. We need more coats. We need XL coats. We need leggings and tights XL sweatpants that can be worn over other pants. We need hand warmers. Warm winter hats. Warm gloves. Warm socks.

Please help warm our guests this winter. YOU CAN DROP OFF ITEMS AT [Community UCC, Champaign, IL](#). Monday thru Thursday, 9-3 pm.

Or email jubilee.cafe@community-ucc.org



November 1, 2021: Just like that, with the arrival of November, the weather turns colder. Tonight, we had 90 guests take home macaroni and cheese with a fall vegetable hash or one of our heat at home meals. We served several desserts including lemon bars, cheesecake, and apple pie.

Tonight, was also the first night for using our outdoor propane heaters for the guests standing in line.

This night reminds us how much we count on you, the people who follow the weekly stories of Jubilee Cafe.

With winter not far away, we are in need of several items. If you can donate, please drop off at Community UCC, Champaign, IL, 895 S 6th St. Monday through Thursday, 9-3 pm.

We need new or freshly laundered:

Adult winter coats

Winter hats

Gloves & mittens

Men's new underwear

Women's new underwear

Men's new socks

Women's new socks

Hand warmers

Blankets

Sleeping bags

New or gently used backpacks/string bags

Pillows with pillowcases

Thank you!

Email jubilee.cafe@community-ucc.org with questions

[Back to Top](#)



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	Liturgist	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgist1
Worship Team	Greeter	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeter1
Worship Team	Usher	Chase Skye or Susan Pawlicki	chaseskye7@gmail.com spawlicki2@hotmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-usher1
Worship Team	Hymn Leaders & Other Music for Worship	Music Director	music@community-ucc.org	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VRO-hpyuH5Exip52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HzxhefK7nlass/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!
Wednesday, December 1 – Friday, December 31



Wednesday, December 1, 7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

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

Sunday, December 5, 10:15am: All 6th-12th graders invited to participate and remain in worship today

Saturday, December 11, 2:00-4:00pm: CUCC Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 12, 10:15am: Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 12, 6:30pm: Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 14, 11:30am: CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Gathering

Wednesday, December 15, 7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 19, 10:15am: All 6th-12th graders invited to participate in Sunday School in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 19, 11:30am-2:00pm: Youth Group Christmas Party

Monday, December 20, 9:00am: Articles for January eCommunigram due to Office Manager

Wednesday, December 22, 7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 24, 6:30pm: Christmas Eve Worship

Be sure to check the CUCC Facebook page for updates.



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

[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=ZmNvaHYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09	+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=SklXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09	+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=WmIBN3AyVkfTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Choir	Wed	7:00PM	326 389 912	854849	https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZWVWZqRkI4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09	+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=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZIdTINUUnR1SjlVUT09	+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

CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES

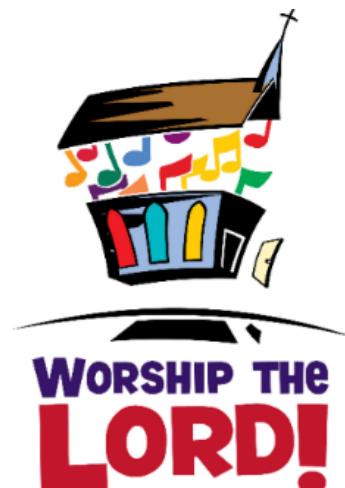
Advent is a fun musical season full of familiar songs, a great time for new vaccinated singers to join us. Even if you can't make a long-term commitment to singing in choir, come any Wednesday 7-8PM and then from 9:30-10AM Sunday morning to prepare for Sunday's service.

Choir is excited to begin singing in-person during services on December 5. We will continue to sing masked and distanced. If you have questions about COVID-safety and singing, please contact me.

Upcoming choir schedule:

Wed. 12/1 7PM rehearsal
 Sun. 12/5 9:30AM rehearsal + 10:15 service
 Wed. 12/8 NO REHEARSAL
 Sun. 12/12 9:30AM rehearsal + 10:15 service
 Wed. 12/15 7PM rehearsal
 Sun. 12/19 9:30AM rehearsal + 10:15 service
 Wed. 12/22 7PM Christmas eve rehearsals
 Fri. 12/24 5:45PM rehearsal + 6:30 service
 Sun. 12/26 NO CHOIR
 Wed. 12/29 NO CHOIR

[Back to Top](#)



INSTRUMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

I am eager to include instruments into our Advent season 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 once again, a note of huge appreciation to our Sound Team and Jennifer Cromley who have all learned new skills on the job to make our music possible. THANK YOU!

Sincerely,
Kathy Lee, Music Director
she / her / hers
music@community-ucc.org | 203-605-3830

Mission Ministry Team

Greetings from your Mission Team!

Many thanks as always for your continued support and generosity through the last month! We have delivered another box of supplies to the Caminos project, there is underwear in the collection bin for Canteen Run, the box in the narthex in which we are collecting supplies for the Afghan Welcome Home project is starting to fill up, and we were able to collect \$323 for the national UCC's Neighbors in Need collection! In addition, this month, the Mission Team sent \$175 to each of the following organizations on your behalf: Caminos, The Afghan Welcome Home Project of Central Illinois, and The Trauma & Resilience Initiative of Champaign County. (This last organization is doing amazing work in our community by supporting individuals and families impacted by gun violence with crisis support.) Yay Community! You continue to **be the church** for those around us!

As you know however, needs of our community members and others don't go away just because it is the holiday season. We want to finish the year strong on the giving front! Here are the opportunities we would like to put before you this month! Please participate as you are able!

1. The Christmas Fund - This is the last of the 4 major UCC collections in which we participate each year. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. We will be collecting for this fund anytime between Sunday, December 19th and Sunday, December 26th, including on Christmas Eve. You may contribute on our website at community-ucc.org, pushing the donate button, and using the drop-down menu to choose The Christmas Fund. Or you may write a check to CUCC, writing "Christmas Fund" in the memo line. Finally, we hope to have special offering envelopes by that time, and you may place your cash donation in the envelope in the offering plate. We look forward to sending a generous contribution on its way!



2 and 3 are on the following pages

4. The UP Center - The UP Center continues to appreciate donations of art supplies that they can use in their programming for young people.

5. Canteen Run - We continue to collect men's underwear size M - 3XL for the Canteen Run to pass out to the people that use their services.

[Back to Top](#)

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We are so grateful for all the many ways in which you are able to further the kin-dom of God in the community and around the world!

Thanks, Jeanne, Kristy, and Ramona



2. Afghan Welcome Home Project - We began collecting your new and gently used items for Afghani refugees currently being housed at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin last month and hope to get more donations before we transport them to the collection point in Decatur. The items being collected are noted below.

Afghan Welcome Home Project HOME of Central Illinois

Items needed for Afghan Evacuees at Ft. McCoy, WI Processing Center:

i. 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

ii. 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

iii. 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

iv. Children's Clothing:

Boys and Girls, needed in sizes Newborn on up

Long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters – all children sizes

Long Pants – all children sizes (include a belt if pants have belt loops)

Coats, Hats, Gloves – all children sizes

v. Wagons:

New or lightly used, able to carry children or personal items

vi. 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

vii. Lawn Chairs:

New or used in good working order

viii. Baby Strollers:

New or used, clean and in good working order

ix. Electric Hot Water Pots:

New or used, clean, in good working order

x. Suitcases:

Medium and Large Size; new or used.

Items can be dropped off at or purchased online and shipped to Ilene Henderson 1208 Hyde Park Ct, Decatur, IL 62521



Call or text Sue Montgomery (217) 864-4487 or

www.Henderson1208.com with questions or to arrange pick up

3. Caminos - This is the program at Cunningham Children's Home for unaccompanied minors. We continue collecting items for these young people during their time at the children's home as they wait to be reunited with family or placed in foster families. The list of needed items is noted below.



WISH LIST

Cunningham's responsibility with Caminos is to serve young people temporarily while they are going through immigration court and awaiting placement with family members, sponsors or foster parents currently living in the United States.

The following items are needed for these youth while they are in our care:

- DVD movies, PG/PG13, in English or Spanish
- Hackey sacks
- Soccer balls (Sizes 4 and 5)
- Sketch pads/tablets (no spiral bound please)
- UNO cards*
- Stress Balls
- Chapstick*
- Hair gel for men
- Shower poufs
- Unscented hand lotions - personal size
- Unscented stick deodorant
- Slide Sandals* - Men's sizes 6-11; Adidas or comparable style/brand
- Sneakers/Tennis Shoes (new or gently used) Adults Sizes 7-12
- Flip Flops - Youth L; Adult S-L
- Hard shell/velcro shin guards
- Soccer socks
- Headphones/ear buds
- Coats for all seasons (new or gently used) Youth XL, Adult S-L
- Water Bottles* - clear, dishwasher safe
- Simple handwritten, welcome notes, in Spanish "we are glad you are here."

Questions? Please contact Brooke Buzard
at bbuzard@cunninghamhome.org
or 217.337.9073.

*items of the most need

OUR VISION: TO SEE EVERY CHILD THRIVE

hope begins here.

learn more at cunninghamhome.org/programs/caminos

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, December 2 at Urbana Garden Restaurant. It will be great to see everyone.

~Tom Ward

wardt508@comcast.net



CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group

Hi friends,

Fifteen people enjoyed lunch, conversation and laughs at Casa Del Mar for CUCC Retiree's November Luncheon on November 16.

We wanted to give you a heads up. At our November Retiree's lunch, we decided to move our December lunch up a week to the 2nd Tuesday in December, December 14th. We felt this might be better than trying to get together the week of Christmas.

We will send out another reminder note with the exact location a week prior to our lunch. We have been checking with several restaurants to find availability and good parking, so we will keep you posted on which one will work the best.

Thanks!

-Roger & Peg

Individuals Together



Five members of Individuals Together met for a yummy dinner at Houlihan's on Sat. November 27. It was our "low stress, cooking free" version of a "Friendsgiving" meal. We enjoyed each other's company and catching up on everyone's news. In fact, we were amazed that our group almost closed the place, (of course closing time is 9PM!)

Individuals Together is CUCC's social group for persons who live alone for ANY reason, whether full time or part time. If you'd like to join us for any of our activities, or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Linda Morgan, Faith Community Nurse at 217-649-3778.

Health and Wellness

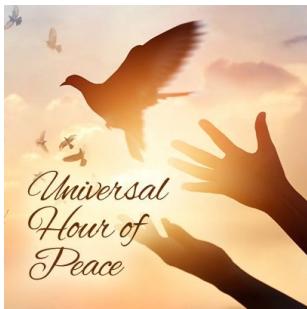
On December 7th, National Illinois Day recognizes the Land of Lincoln as the 21st state to join the United States. To learn more, visit

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-illinois-day-december-7/>.

[Back to Top](#)



National Illinois Day
www.NationalDayCalendar.com



Celebrate the **Universal Hour of Peace** (From 11:30 p.m. on December 31st to 12:30 a.m. on January 1st each year) the reflective hour encourages the promotion of peaceful activities during the hour observance.

Community Building/Hospitality Team

CUCC CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Saturday, DECEMBER 11th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (hopefully in the church parlor)

We thought it would be fun to exchange Christmas cookies again this year since we will not be having our annual Wassail Punch/Cookie Reception after the Christmas Eve service.

It would be wonderful if we had enough cookies on December 11th so that we could take a few to some of our CUCC members who live alone and to give a couple to each of our Jubilee Café guests. So...we are asking you to think about bringing 2 plates of cookies – one for your cookie exchange, and one which we will divide and share with others to spread a little “sugary” Christmas joy.

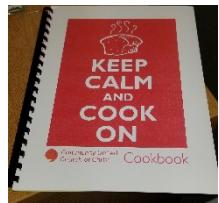
Since we want to have fun but also keep everyone safe, we will have several tables set up in the church parlor (if the parlor is not ready to use yet, we will have the cookie exchange in the lobby again). You will need to wear masks and you will not be allowed to eat any cookies inside of course. We ask that you bring your Christmas cookies (bring 2 plates of cookies - a dozen or 2 dozen – whatever you like for the cookie exchange then plan to take that many cookies home with you **and** leave a plate of cookies to share with others – see above) to the church parlor (or lobby). We will provide plastic gloves and plates. You can choose the cookies you wish to take home (using tongs provided).

If you would rather, you can either bring your cookies to the church office on Thursday, December 9th between 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. OR from 1:00 p.m. or after on Saturday, December 11th to the parlor (or lobby) of the church.

**We look forward to seeing you and your cookies on or before December 11th
Happy Baking!**



CUCC Cookbook



Looking for a unique Christmas gift? We still have a few of The *Keep Calm and Cook On* CUCC Pandemic Cookbooks available for purchase for a small fee of just \$5.00. These cookbooks were created during the pandemic with members and friends of CUCC submitting their favorite recipes. Cookbooks can be purchased by contacting the Church Office at (271) 344-5091 or info@community-ucc.org.

Carla Rush, Office Manager

Children and Family Ministry

Hello families-

It's hard to believe it's already December! Advent season is upon us, and we will be spending the next month focusing on the hope, peace, joy, and love that the birth of Jesus represents. We acknowledged the first Sunday of Advent (Hope) a little early, before the Thanksgiving holiday. Here are the scriptures we will be reading over the next few weeks:

- Peace: Luke 3:1-6 John the Baptist calling for people to repent and be baptized
- Joy: Philippians 4:4-7 Paul encourages the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always
- Love: Luke 1: 39-42 Mary and Elizabeth greet each other

May your Advent season be filled with wonder and light and festivities and fun!

~ Julie McClure



Youth Group



Confirmation has been going well with our 8 Confirmands. We are learning more about healing, connection, and wholeness. We have read passages about Jesus' life and talked about what it means to be able to care for individuals in our own circles. We have started discussions about the Bible and learning how to navigate its origin and the meaning it may hold for each of us.

We will have **Confirmation Class on Sunday, December 12th** during worship starting at 10:15 a.m. in the CUCC Fellowship Hall.

If Confirmands have not yet been baptized and they would like to do so, they are encouraged to participate in the Baptism of Christ on Sunday, January 9th. Caregivers - You are invited to reach out to Carla at info@community-ucc.org or call (217) 344-5091 to add your youth to the list.

Here are a few introductions of our Confirmands and Sponsors:



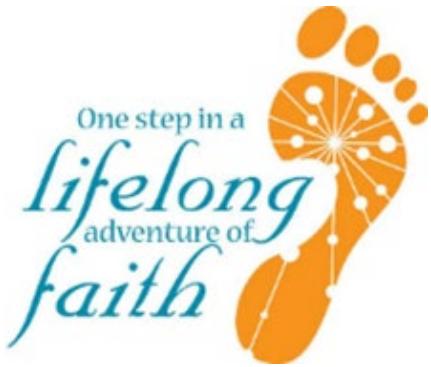
Emalynn Radek. Emalynn is a 7th grader at Franklin Stem Academy. Emalynn enjoys drawing, biking and reptiles. Emalynn shares that CUCC is very supportive of the LGBTQ+ Community and the food. Emalynn participates in all-star cheer. Emalynn's sponsor is Jeanne Ward.



Isaac Ewoldt is an 8th grader at Edison Middle School. Isaac enjoys Cross Country and Jazz Band. Isaac shared that CUCC is a good community and enjoys hot chocolate and all the snacks. Isaac's Confirmation sponsor is David Wilcox.



Kaleb Kasper is a 9th grader at Mahomet Senior High School. Kaleb likes to eat food and play video games. Kaleb shared that snack are a favorite part of CUCC. Kaleb's Confirmation sponsor is Johnalene Radek.



All youth (6th - 12th graders) are invited to participate in worship on Sunday, December 5th.

All youth (6th-12th graders) are invited to participate in Youth Sunday School on December 19th following the Children's Moment during the worship service. We will meet in the CUCC Fellowship Hall.

Looking ahead:

Sunday, January 9th: We will have our first Confirmation Workshop following the worship service. Confirmation Sponsors and Confirmands are requested to attend. We will meet in the CUCC Fellowship Hall.

Take care,
Jessica

Outdoor Ministry

keeping the
Campfires burning
at our UCC camps

Your support has allowed us to preserve our camps for strength and spiritual sustenance during this extended COVID pandemic.

We are working in this moment to ensure that in an uncertain future our guests will have an experience to bring them "out of the ordinary and into the sacred".

Please prayerfully consider a financial gift to our camps, knowing that your gift is directly changing a person's life.

Please, prayerfully **consider a donation online** today at:
<https://outdoorministries.campbraingiving.com/>

Questions? Contact 815-447-2390 or e-mail:
OutdoorMinistries@ilucc.org



Scan the QR Code to go to the Tower Hill website ([facebook-ad-pandemic.pdf \(il-outdoorministries.org\)](#)) and read how the Tower Hill Camp is soon to be 100 years old and continues to provide ministry today because of our generosity.

[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