



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-Communigram

Volume 61, Issue 1—January 1 - 31

A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

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Bytes from Bill

Happy New Year!

As my sojourn with CUCC as guest pastor is ending, I have been thinking over the past few days about this time and all that I have learned about the congregation and your ministries. I have been impressed with the many ways you care for one another that is seemingly more organic than programmatic; prayer team, meal deliveries, rides as needed, leaf raking, the emerging music ministry with shut-ins, and the checking in with one another at times of need. The energy and dedication of those who gather weekly to provide meals through Jubilee Café is an extraordinary ministry with the community. The flexibility and resilience of all those who help provide support for the weekly worship services: ushers, greeters, liturgists, musicians and singers, worship committee is to be commended. I'm especially grateful for the tech team who have in their own words been learning on the fly and have insured that we are able to have both in person and online worship, while also looking ahead about additional ways to improve the use of current technology in worship. And I cannot forget the groups that gather regularly for either study or fellowship that add value to the life of the congregation: Men's Breakfast, Individuals Together, Retirees Luncheon, Pub Theology. I have seen the excitement and smiles as you have seen the results of the hard work of the Parlor Redecoration Committee and tried out all the new seating options. I know that every day in the coming weeks I will remember something else I've learned that I've forgotten to mention here.

Thank you for welcoming me into your midst and bringing your enthusiasm and energy for the ministries of CUCC. I'm thankful for those who shared with me your understandings of the congregation's ministries and traditions along with those who showed me where to find things and the working of the systems. I'm thankful for the support of the CLB, and its committees who kept me informed of upcoming events and needed information.

On a personal level, this time with you has also been a gift for me. After many years prior to retirement working with congregations on a church governing body level, I have enjoyed this time in a congregational setting. I've been able to see and hear firsthand the hopes and the practice of ministry in changing times and the level of commitment of the people of CUCC in service for and with its community.

God be with you as you welcome Leah back from sabbatical and go forward into the new year.

Bill

Rev. William Bill Lawser

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Moderator Musings

Happy New Year!

As many of you know, January is annual meeting time. We will gather on January 30th, on Zoom at 1pm, which should give folks worshipping in person enough time to get online.

In addition to electing new officers at the meeting, the congregation also approves the budget for next year. The CLB will meet on Jan. 9 to create a final proposal, so if you think you missed the chance to pledge for next year, it's not too late!

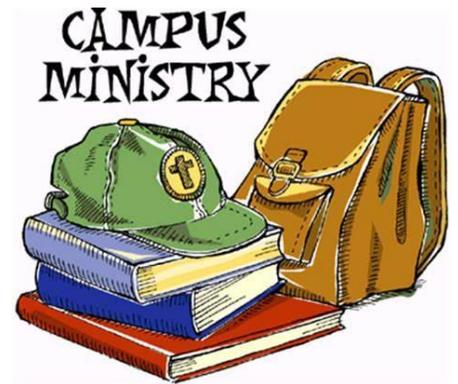
Warm Regards,
Elizabeth Shack



Campus Ministry

December was a fairly busy time for Campus Ministry, even with students heading out for break. We had the end of semester party, helped with worship services as ushers/greeters, ongoing Jubilee Café helpers, and received lovely letters and care packages from the congregation. What brings me joy is knowing that even while students are away, many are eager to return to a community of faith that loves them. Thank you for all you do to help the students!! We are looking forward to an amazing new year full of hope, joy, love, support, and maybe a cleaner office.

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



Community Building/Hospitality Team

Taking Down of the Greens at CUCC

We will plan to take down the greens in the Sanctuary on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 7th, beginning at 4:00 P.M.** After we finish taking everything down, packing it up and putting it away for another year, we invite you to join us for pizza at 5:30 P.M. at Pizza Antica in downtown Champaign, 10 E. Chester Street. (Dutch Treat)

We hope to see you January 7th!

-Community Building/Hospitality Team



Dedication of the John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith and Unveiling Parlor Updates



The official unveiling of our beautiful “new” parlor will coincide with the Dedication of the John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith on January 23rd, but I imagine many of you have been happily watching the incremental changes occur over the last several months. That 1986 furniture is gone! First, we want to sincerely thank the folks who donated funds or furniture for the “old” parlor. Many great moments of CUCC life happened there. But it had gotten shabby, even before the ceiling and wall problems.

Almost 3 years ago, our congregation committed to raising extra money to repair and update the building, including the parlor, to make CUCC a safer and more visually welcoming place to worship God and to do some of our important social justice ministry. Thanks to all of you for making and continuing to make this a reality through your hard work, prayers, and treasure.

Huge thanks to the Building Committee, and especially to Grant Robbennolt, for countless hours of phone calls and meetings with workers. Thanks, too, to our wonderful Office Manager, Carla Rush, and to sabbatical Paster Bill Lawser for being there for us.

The real reason the parlor looks so warm and inviting now is that Jan Hiland and Doug Irwin joined me on the Parlor Committee; they are the ones with color sense and style! Jan suggested paint colors for the parlor and sanctuary. Grant, Jan, and I chose carpet options. Before leaving on sabbatical, Pastor Leah was able to let us know she really liked both paint colors and carpet choices. Then the shopping began! We were frugal shoppers, got a lot, and had fun. And yes, we mean to have the sofa cushions kept on the floor by the children’s table and book area for them to sit on and read there. Special thanks to Doug for donating the beautiful new fireplace screen and the print of *The Creation of Adam* by Michelangelo. Thanks to Jan for the elbow grease to make the fireplace shine! Thanks to the Gropps for donating several vases to add to the treasures we found in the church storerooms. Thanks to the team of folks who recovered chair cushions. Please note how beautiful the painting by longtime member Martha Seif looks in its new location and new frame and sign the card for her on Jan. 23rd.

We wanted furniture that was welcoming, sturdy, comfortable, and flexible for numerous uses and many, many years. We wanted small and large talking and working spaces, inviting space for young children, a place for signups, and a place for food and beverages (Thanks, Peg and Randy, for always making do!), and just space to relax and reflect. Did we succeed? Let us know on January 23rd!

Patty Gropp



As part of the unveiling of the parlor update festivities, we will also be dedicating and opening the John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith on January 23rd following worship.

If you have been waiting patiently for your chance to access those materials-- it's finally here! While we hope that the Center will eventually be a resource for the community at large, for now we are restricting use to members and friends of CUCC. This will give us the chance to discover what we haven't thought about that we need to fix before we open it up to a larger audience. We expect to be able to offer retreats and such in the future as pandemic protocols permit.

For now, the Center will once again make online materials from *The Prayer Bench* available to those who are interested. If you would like to sign up for those, please let Pastor Connie (connie@community-ucc.org) know by **January 10th** so she can add you to the list.

Pastor Connie Bandy,
Parish Associate

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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
12/6/2021	74
12/13/2021	57
12/20/2021	48
12/27/2021	44
Meals Served	223

12/13/2021 -- Jubilee Cafe was blessed with several volunteers today. They all worked together to serve 57 guests Russian borscht with beef or faux soy beef plus cheese and potato pierogies. Desserts were red velvet cake, Italian crème cake, or pecan pie. Plus, we had soooooo many donuts to share.

Our numbers were down a bit, but we know students are starting to leave campus for semester break.

Jubilee Cafe will continue to serve a meal every Monday through the break. We serve from 5:00-6:30 at 805 S 6th St.



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When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins;
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart. (Howard Thurman)

12/20/2021 -- Tonight, at Jubilee Cafe, we celebrated the last Monday before Christmas. Alanna and the Nutrition in Health student organization at University of Illinois donated warm clothing for our guests. And then, the CUCC choir sang Christmas carols to our volunteers and guests. And best of all, through the generosity of the CUCC cookie exchange, we gave our guests containers of holiday cookies!

Tonight, we served ham or vegan ham, collards, and cheesy grits to 48 guests. Plus, we had some so many wonderful volunteers helping us tonight. Here are the items we need most:



- L and XL coats
 - L and XL men's underwear
 - Gloves
 - Toothpaste
 - Soap
 - Shampoo or 2 in 1 shampoo/conditioner
 - Combs
 - Body wash
 - Deodorant
 - Washcloths
 - Tampons and pads
 - Can openers
- You can drop off donations at 805 S. 6th,
Monday through Thursday 9-3.

From everyone at Jubilee Café, Peace to You
and your loved ones



Ministry Volunteer Opportunities at CUCC

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-hpyuH5Exip52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HZxzhefK7nlass/edit?usp=sharing
Prayer Team	Team Member	Office Admin	Info@community-ucc.org	
Children's Ministry	Event Planner/Leader	Julie McClure	jemcclure4@gmail.com	
Jubilee Café	Meal Prep, Cook, Clean-up	Johnell Bentz	johnell.bentz@gmail.com	https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer



Faith Community Nurse

Vial of Life: Little Container – Big Help

One would not normally keep an oversized pill bottle in the refrigerator, but this one move could save your life. This bottle is part of the *Vial of Life* program sponsored by the Faith Community Nurse Program and Carle Health. Inside the bottle is a medical record sheet that lists medications, Do Not Resuscitate forms and medical history forms. This is vital information in an emergency that can help emergency personnel when responding to a crisis. If a person is unresponsive, a friend or family member may not be able to provide details about the person's health. If the home has a Vial of Life sticker on the front window, responders know to go straight to the refrigerator for information that will help them provide the safest care. Anyone can benefit from the Vial of Life program, especially if you have any history of chronic illness (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, kidney disease, heart disease or stroke). Please consider being part of the program. When you get the Vial of Life, simply fill out the form and put it in the bottle provided. Stick the bottle in your refrigerator and put the sticker on your home's front door window. It's a small thing you can do to feel safer and to help responders in an emergency. If you are interested in participating or need to update your Vial of Life forms, reach out to Johnalene Radek, CUCC Faith Community Nurse (217) 714-2889 or Linda Morgan, CUCC Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health (217) 649-3778.



Johnalene Radek MSN, RN, CCRN, FCN

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Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!
Saturday, January 1 – Monday, January 31



Sunday, January 2, 10:15am: Youth 6th – 12th grade invited to participate in Sunday School in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 6, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast at Urbana Garden Restaurant

Friday, January 7, 4:00pm: Taking Down the Greens at CUCC, Pizza at Pizza Antica in Champaign

Sunday, January 9, 10:15am: Traditional Hybrid Worship with baptisms

Sunday, January 9, 10:15am: Youth will remain in worship to be with peers who will be baptized

Sunday, January 9, 12:00pm – 2:00pm: Confirmation Workshop for Confirmands and Sponsors in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 16, 10:15am: Youth 6th – 12th grade invited to participate in Sunday School in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 18, 11:30am: CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Gathering at Red Lobster

Tuesday, January 18, 6:30pm: CUCC CLB Meeting

Sunday, January 23, 10:15am: Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 23, 11:30am: Dedication of The John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith & Unveiling of Parlor Updates

Monday, January 24, 9:00am: Articles for February eCommunigram due to Office Manager

Sunday, January 30, 10:15am: Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 30, 1:00pm: CUCC Annual Meeting on Zoom

Be sure to check the CUCC Facebook page for updates.



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)

Worship Ministry

Liturgists, Greeters, Ushers Needed

The Worship Ministry Team is seeking Liturgists, Greeters, and Ushers for January and February 2022. Volunteer for one or all three of positions by accessing the Sign-Up Genius Links below.



Get Involved in Worship

Liturgist: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgist1>

The liturgist leads portions of the worship service including reading the scripture lesson. All information is sent ahead of time so there is time to practice before the worship service.

Greeter: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeter1>

The role of the greeter is to welcome folks as they arrive for the worship service and assist them in finding their way around the building.

Usher: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-usher1>

The usher escorts 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.

Care Team – Music Ministry

In December, Music Ministry team members Linda Morgan and Marilou Hinrichs spent a wonderful afternoon visiting with some of our home-bound members, bringing treats from the cookie exchange, and sharing Christmas carols. This was our inaugural visit bringing music with our new laptop. Linda was instrumental in gathering the funds to purchase this laptop which will do double duty, delivering music to our seniors and home-bound members and helping with the audio/video work at the back of the church each Sunday. We loaded up the laptop with all types of Christmas music (hymns, carols, classical choral, and popular Christmas favorites) and brought headphones and speakers to assist with all levels of hearing ability. What blessed moments we shared watching familiar music work its miracles—having someone with memory issues sing every word of familiar carols, holding the relaxed hand of someone who experiences agitation as they calmed to the soothing strains of well-known songs, and having wonderful communication in the breaks between the songs as the music prompted long ago memories of our church and church community.

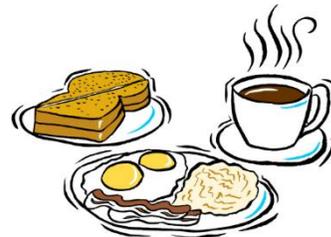


With a song in our heart,
Marilou Hinrichs and
Linda Morgan, Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health

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, January 6 at Urbana Garden Restaurant. It will be great to see everyone.

~Tom Ward
wardt508@comcast.net

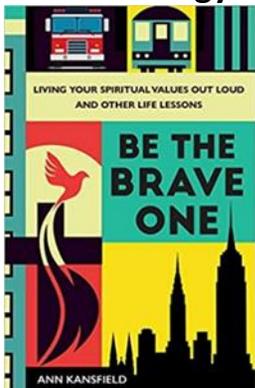


Pub Theology

Pub Theology will begin meeting again on Monday, January 3. At that time, we will begin reading *Be the Brave One* by friend of CUCC Rev. Ann Kansfield and CUCC's Campus Ministry's Queering Faith speaker for 2022. Purchase your copy of the book from Campus Ministry for \$25.00 and help support their events.

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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CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group

Hi friends,

Sixteen people enjoyed lunch, conversation and laughs at Neil St. Blues for CUCC Retiree's December Luncheon on December 14.

The Retiree's Monthly Lunch Group will meet on Tuesday, January 18th, 11:30 a.m. at Red Lobster, 1901 N. Prospect in Champaign.

Thanks!
-Roger & Peg



Community Building/Hospitality Team Birthday Announcements

It's not too late! If you haven't done so already and would like your name announced when we read the monthly birthdays in church each month (read the first Sunday of each month), please email your name and birthday month to Carla at info@community-ucc.org. She will then pass that info on to the Hospitality Team. Thanks! [Back to Top](#)



Community Building/Hospitality Team Cookie Bakers

THANK YOU to all the cookie bakers who provided cookies for our Christmas Cookie Exchange on December 11th. We had a wide variety of cookies from which to choose from for the cookie exchange and many, many extra dozens of cookies you baked to share with our Jubilee Cafe guests and our older folks living in facilities or homebound. Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity.
-Hospitality Team



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Individuals Together

The Individuals Together group met at Riggs Beer Company on Sat. December 18, 2021, for a time of socializing, shopping at the German Christmas market, viewing the world's largest glass Christmas tree, and yes, eating German food. 5 members plus a few guests joined in the fun and enjoyed sharing in the Christmas festivities.

Individuals Together is CUCC's social group for persons who live alone for ANY reason, either part time or full time. If you're interested in being part of our email list to join us for some fun activities, please contact Linda Morgan, Commissioned Minister of Health at 217-649-3778



A New Years Prayer

May I be a healing energy,
May I be a benefit to all,
May my life enrich others,
May I know what matters,
And live in harmony with nature
~ Abby Willowroot

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Children and Family Ministry

Hello families-

Happy New Year CUCC Families!

The month of January is an action-packed part of the liturgical calendar, from the journey of the Magi to worship Jesus, through Jesus' first miracle at the wedding at Cana, to the Transfiguration. We'll gather for Sunday School every Sunday in January except the 5th Sunday, which will be kids in worship.

We are ending an uncertain year with more uncertainty. I'm so thankful for the opportunity for more CUCC kids to have the opportunity to get vaccinated, though I understand it may still feel precarious to come for in person church and Sunday School. We will continue to gather as safely as possible and will welcome kiddos whenever they are able to join! My New Year's resolution is more consistency in sending along our lessons to families, so everyone can keep up with what we are learning on Sunday mornings.

We are always in need of more folks that would be willing to sign up to serve on Sunday mornings. Each Sunday we have a leader, who takes the prepared lesson and chooses activities from it that will work for our group. We also have a Shepherd, who doesn't need to plan or lead, just interact with the kids, and support the leader where needed. We have a small group of really smart, funny, and sweet kids that are really a joy to work with. The sign up is below if you feel led to join us!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C48ADAC2EABF49-january>

Wishing you peace and health in the New Year!

Julie McClure

Children and Family Ministry



Youth Group



We have been having a wonderful time with Youth Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and our Christmas Youth Party. We are looking forward to getting to know each other better in 2022 and in the years to come.

We will have our first Confirmation Workshop with Pastor Leah Robberts-Mosser on Sunday, January 9th following the worship service. Confirmation Sponsors and Confirmands are requested to attend. We will meet in the CUCC Fellowship Hall.

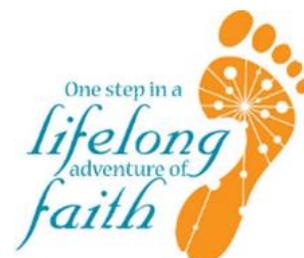
The January schedule for youth (6th-12th grade) is noted below:

January 2: Youth are invited to participate in Sunday School following the Children's Moment

January 9: Youth in will remain worship to be with peers who will be getting baptized

January 16: Youth are invited to participate in Sunday School following the Children's Moment

January 23 and 30: Confirmation Class (starting at 10:15 a.m.) in the CUCC Fellowship Hall



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Confirmands and Sponsor Introductions:



Chloe Robberts-Mosser attends school at Uni High as an eighth grader. She enjoys the food, the feel of the community, and fun things we do at CUCC. A fun fact she wanted to share is that she once played "Baby Shark" with strangers on the highway. She wants to learn more about what she believes during Confirmation. Chloe's Confirmation Sponsor is Johnell Bentz.



JJ Lee is an eighth grader at Countryside School. He enjoys the community at CUCC. He likes to read, play video games with friends, and watch educational YouTube videos. He is hoping to learn more about progressive Christianity in Confirmation Class. He wants people to know that he created a spreadsheet that inputs Covid-19 data automatically into a death, current cases, recovering and percentage of population infected. JJ's Confirmation Sponsor is Randy Ewoldt.



Miranda Isaacs is a seventh grader at Urbana Middle School. She enjoys snacks and community the most at CUCC. She likes cats. She also enjoys soccer, theater, and writing. Miranda's Confirmation Sponsor is Laura Stevens.

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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