



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

## e-Communigram

Volume 61, Issue 2 – February 1 – 28

*A Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation*

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### Letters from Leah

January 4, 9:30ish....

The parking lot -- gorgeous. I would get out and dance in it, again, if it weren't so cold. Best pull in and get inside. But. Pay attention. You're going to have to train your muscle memory for new specs. Your parking spot got moved, and rightly so, when we redid the parking lot to make room for proper accessible parking spots.

Wonder what people must think when they walk in this door to find themselves in the middle of a food pantry.... a food pantry anchored by those in-your-face theological posters. Who knows what they think – what they should see is a church living its values. This space has always been so empty, and frankly, not usable for much. But here it is serving a purpose for which it was made, a purpose which the people who came before us would've never imagined. Good job, church. Good job Holy Spirit. And look at that: two racks of coats waiting for our Jubilee guests. I've wondered about our guests while I was away.... about J and B and the others who have no permanent address. It's gotten cold and it will only get colder. I'll be glad to see everyone again on Monday night.

I've wondered about this, too.... laughed about it, out loud, one random night in November. Would my "Moses come back!" word bubble that I affixed to the elevator sign disappear while I was away? Glad to see the answer is: no. That little fire always looks like the burning bush to me. Grateful, always, to serve a church that isn't so stuffy.

What's that.... a collection box for supplies for refugees. That's new, but not surprise. Not really. Again, good on you, church.

"Good morning, Leah! Welcome back!" Carla's greeting is like a little ray of sunshine on this gray day. I am so grateful we found her, just in the nick of time.... before covid.... before my sabbatical. Again, good job, Holy Spirit. I ought to believe what I say when I say, "Kairos over Chronos," a little more often.

My office looks just how I left it, after the big clean. Hello, Mary, still smiling serenely, full of promise. Hello, peace cranes, still swirling above my head. Hello, Daryl, still standing there in the corner – a life-size reminder of the way being loved in community can help heal a broken life. Hello, office, still the color of sunshine and the sky. I missed you.

"Did you hear about....? Do you know about....?"

"I know nothing, really. People were very respectful of my sabbatical space. No, I don't know about that. Nor that. Nothing, really. Tell me."

"Have you seen the parlor?"

"I have not. Is it...? done?"

"Come see."

I wondered if this would happen, if I would return to a new gathering space, a new parlor, a new church family living room. Duck through the sanctuary, first, though. I've missed that sacred space.

Oh, hello epiphany stars. You help us hold onto a little Christmas light on through the winter. Hello, tech station, you

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look settled in, for which I am glad and grateful. Good job, church. This continues to be our new reality, and some day, years from now, we'll wonder what we ever did without you...although, truth be known, I wasn't expecting to come back to work in the middle of a massive surge. What's that thing Niebuhr prays in the Serenity Prayer, the full version, in the second half that no one ever reads? "...accepting hardship as the pathway to peace...." That's it. Live life on life's terms or be jacked up and miserable. Covid 2.0, or Covid: the Never Ending Story. Let's go.

OK, on to the parlor.

Take a moment here, Leah. Pause. Don't just barge in.

Pause.

Oh! Look at Martha Seif's painting, how it just pulls the room together. Every time I say to the kids, "And you can learn new things," I think of her. She didn't take up painting until late, late in life. Look at this gorgeous fireplace grate and.... the wall. The ceiling! It's all mended. It's all painted. I am relieved. I recognize this – this bowl, that vase – sitting on the windowsills. These are from the old kitchen. They've been in there since...what.... the 1940s at least? That's a Royal Haeger vase. And this one, not sure. OK. Nobody break the Haeger, please.

Look at these buffets. We can bump these out to make a serving station. And...these couches. I have to sit in every seat. Every single seat. Gotta test them out.

OOOOOH. These spinnnnnnnnnnnnnnn!

Good job, church.

And let me just poke my head in the Bandy Center. Look at all these books. What a collection! What a gift. I'll be so glad when people can use this wealth of resources.

And I'll be so glad when we can gather in this space, in this living room for this family of faith.

So glad.

Wow.

Ok, ok. Do a video. Post it, let people know you're back and excited. Then, get back to your office. You have work to do.

Blessings,



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



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## Moderator Musings

Hello from a new CUCC Moderator! I'm stepping into this role after the very capable Elizabeth Shack moves into Outgoing Moderator, and Johnalene Radek steps up to Incoming Moderator. This past year as Incoming Moderator I have been witness to many conversations and decisions that were difficult, but with wisdom and grace were worked out together. That is especially true of our 2022 budget, which our Church Life Board combed through line by line and came out on top thanks to your generous annual giving and smart investments. I am so thankful for all of the people in this community who see needs and meet them. I know that together we'll continue to do good work this year, for ourselves and for our larger community.



Warmly,  
Erin Ewoldt  
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## Covid Resource and Volunteer opportunity

Do you know anyone quarantined with Covid who could use grocery assistance? Restoration Urban Ministries can deliver groceries to anyone who is quarantined with Covid and lives in Champaign County. The groceries are pantry staples available from their food bank and will be left on the person's porch. These deliveries can be made Monday-Friday. If you know someone who is in need of this service, call 217-355-2662 to request this free food delivery.



Restoration Urban Ministries would also welcome volunteers to help with this important food ministry. You may call 217-355-2662 to volunteer.



## Worship Ministry -- Liturgists, Greeters, Ushers Needed

The Worship Ministry Team is seeking Liturgists, Greeters, and Ushers for February and March 2022. Volunteer for one or all three of positions by accessing the Sign-Up Genius Links below or speak to one of the Worship Co-Chairs, Susan Pawlicki or Tina Cowsert.



## Get Involved in Worship

**Liturgist:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgist2>

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-greeter2>

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-usher2>

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.



## 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](mailto:johnell.bentz@gmail.com), for more information.

~Johnell Bentz

Date	Hot Meals & Heat at Home
1/3/2022	31
1/10/2022	29
1/17/2022	72
1/24/2022	83
1/31/2022	57
<b>Meals Served</b>	<b>272</b>

1/17/2022 -- Tonight at Jubilee Café we served 61 hot meals of yummy Chicken Stir Fry or Tofu Stir Fry with Rice and 11 Heat-at-Home meals. For dessert, we offered our guests a choice of Chocolate Cake, Pecan Pie, or homemade Pineapple Upside-down Cake. Tonight was the first meal of the new semester and many of our student guests have returned. Some of our regulars who were gone over the holidays are back as well. Especially in the winter (especially during a pandemic), many of our visitors deal with loneliness. It can be hard to be social for people who are busy trying to put food on the table, trying to get or keep a roof over their heads. Monday nights at Jubilee give all of us, guests and volunteers alike, a chance to get a warm meal and see a friendly face. Welcome back everybody, it's great to see you. —  
*Ann Hart*

#### Mosted Needed Items:

M men's coats  
M men's underwear  
S women's underwear  
M women's underwear

Donations can be dropped off at:  
805 S. 6<sup>th</sup>, Champaign, IL 61820  
Monday through Thursday 9-3.

Jubilee Cafe is looking for 1 or 2 people to help pick up orders from Eastern Illinois Foodbank on Mondays at 8:30, bring back to church, and help put the order away, by 9:30 or 10:00. If interested, contact Johnell at [Johnell.bentz@gmail.com](mailto:Johnell.bentz@gmail.com)

1/24/2022 -- Tonight at Jubilee Cafe CUCC we served 71 meals of chili with cornbread muffins plus 12 heat at home meals of ham and grits. For dessert, guests had their choice of housemade rice pudding, housemade spicy Mexican chocolate bread pudding, or apple pie. Just when we thought we were done for the night, another person came. And another. And another. And another. We were still serving well past closing time, while volunteers were tearing down and putting things away. One of our regular community folks was on a bus that was running late. He came anyway, knowing we would still be cleaning up, in hopes he could get a meal for himself and two friends. Another student stopped by on his way home from class. His class got out late, but eating with Jubilee has been an important part of his week, now, for years. He didn't want to miss it. He came anyway.

Part of what makes Jubilee Cafe what it is the hospitality shown to every guest by every volunteer. This is especially true when you see how the parade of late comers was received this evening. Whether it was a regular student volunteer, Pastor Nate, or a CUCCer who met them at the door, each straggler was greeted warmly....yes, of course we still have food. What can we get you for dessert? Would you like anything else? Yes, we're cleaning up and, no worries, you were right on time. Life is hard these days. So many folks have talked with me about the weariness they feel. Perhaps if we all extended a little kindness, especially grace-filled kindness, the kind extended to our latest guests, we could get through this hard time and be a little better for it.

[#fromtheground](#)  
Community UCC, Champaign, IL

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## Ministry Volunteer Opportunities at CUCC

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up
Worship Team	Technical Help	Office Admin	<a href="mailto:infor@community-ucc.org">infor@community-ucc.org</a>	
Worship Team	Liturgist	Susan Pawlicki or Tina Cowsert	<a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:tcowsert@illinois.edu">tcowsert@illinois.edu</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgist2">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgist2</a>
Worship Team	Greeter	Susan Pawlicki or Tina Cowsert	<a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:tcowsert@illinois.edu">tcowsert@illinois.edu</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeter2">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeter2</a>
Worship Team	Usher	Susan Pawlicki or Tina Cowsert	<a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:tcowsert@illinois.edu">tcowsert@illinois.edu</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-usher2">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-usher2</a>
Worship Team	Hymn Leaders & Other Music for Worship	Music Director	<a href="mailto:music@community-ucc.org">music@community-ucc.org</a>	<a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VRO-hpyuH5Exip52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HZxzhefK7nlass/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VRO-hpyuH5Exip52Jzr4JxOXsUJe1HZxzhefK7nlass/edit?usp=sharing</a>
Prayer Team	Team Member	Office Admin	<a href="mailto:Info@community-ucc.org">Info@community-ucc.org</a>	
Children's Ministry	Event Planner/Leader	Julie McClure	<a href="mailto:jemclure4@gmail.com">jemclure4@gmail.com</a>	
Jubilee Café	Meal Prep, Cook, Clean-up	Johnell Bentz	<a href="mailto:johnell.bentz@gmail.com">johnell.bentz@gmail.com</a>	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer">https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer</a>



### Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!  
Tuesday, February 1 – Monday, February 28

Thursday, February 3, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, February 15, 11:30am: CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Gathering by Zoom

Tuesday, February 15, 6:30pm: CUCC CLB Meeting

Monday, February 21, 9:00am: Articles for February Communigram due to Office Manager



*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	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09">https://zoom.us/j/391847803?pwd=ZmNvaHJYZm1uUUQrdTNBd2NRZThDZz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Daytime Meeting	Any	Anytime	815 146 054	697698	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/815146054?pwd=UmMwdW01ZFVmV0hpZmxrRWNIUmhwdz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/815146054?pwd=UmMwdW01ZFVmV0hpZmxrRWNIUmhwdz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Youth Group (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade)	Sun	1:30PM	402 056 418	578953	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SklXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09">https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SklXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Evening Worship & Other Gatherings	Any	6:30PM	847 5319 7334	675757	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753197334?pwd=ZENQVDNjY0RQMWxNVXRjd2w3WDFVZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753197334?pwd=ZENQVDNjY0RQMWxNVXRjd2w3WDFVZz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Pub Theology	Mon	7:15PM	954 5707 0801	902078	<a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/95457070801?pwd=WmIBN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/95457070801?pwd=WmIBN3AyVkFiTFBDUUtLMjNuZ0t4Zz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Choir	Wed	7:00PM	326 389 912	854849	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZqRkl4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09">https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZqRkl4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

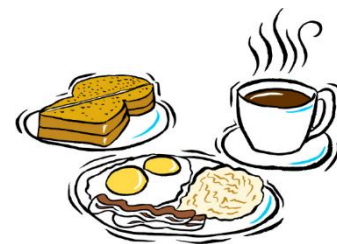
## Monthly Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC

Men's Breakfast	Monthly 1st Thu	7:00AM	829 1216 9514	636040	<a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTINUnR1SjlVUT09">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82912169514?pwd=NE9OR1dNaE9nOGZldTINUnR1SjlVUT09</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
CUCC Retirees' Luncheon	Monthly 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	11:30AM	935 3696 7862	103227	<a href="https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTIV">https://illinois.zoom.us/j/93536967862?pwd=VndIN0Nab1FVcG5VWUdRWTIV</a>	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

### 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, February 3 by Zoom. It will be great to see everyone.

~Tom Ward  
[wardt508@comcast.net](mailto:wardt508@comcast.net)



### CUCC Retirees Monthly Lunch Group

Hi friends,

Twelve people enjoyed lunch, conversation and laughs over Zoom for CUCC Retiree's January Luncheon on January 18.

The Retiree's Monthly Lunch Group will meet via zoom on Tuesday, February 15th, 11:30 am. We will have lunch and then attempt to put a virtual puzzle together. Should be fun - join us!

Thanks!  
-Roger & Peg



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## Mission Ministry Team

WOW! CUCC – You’ve done some amazing work for Missions in the past year! Here’s a little summary of your accomplishments:

### Category 1: Donated and Used Money for Important Work

- Emergency Winter Appeal for Texas Freeze Assistance - \$895 + \$500 match from Mission Budget Money
- One Great Hour of Sharing - \$535
- Strengthen the Church - \$615
- Love Offering for the UP Center during PRIDE - \$578 + \$500 match from a family in the congregation
- Neighbors in Need - \$323
- The Christmas Fund - \$735
- Purchased a Community-Supported-Agriculture Share from Jubilee Farms from our Mission Budget Money
- Sent \$175 to each of 3 local non-profits: Trauma and Resilience Initiative of Champaign County, Caminos, and Afghan Welcome Hope Project of Central Illinois
- Sent \$11,500 from our church budget to Our Church’s Wider Mission

### Category 2: Collected Stuff

- Collected and delivered 2 SUVs-full of donations of clothing, shoes, and suitcases for the Afghan Welcome Home Project of Central Illinois
- Collected and delivered several bins full of items for the Caminos program at Cunningham Children’s Home
- Collected and delivered art supplies to UP Center to use for their programming
- Collected and delivered LOTS of underwear to Canteen Run

### Category 3: Got Involved in the Community by Showing Up

- Participated in a “Stop Asian Hate” rally in downtown Champaign in March
- Made signs for and participated in an “End White Silence” rally in July

**You’ve done a lot!** But as you know, there is always much more to be done! Please watch for the following ways to be involved in the coming weeks:

- Our second annual mission survey to see what local organizations you are most interested in partnering with in 2022
- Our next steps to assist refugees in our local community
- A possible medical debt project through the national UCC
- Considerations for a summer 2022 mission trip
- And ?????? We will continue to attempt to meet special needs as they come up. And we know we can count on all of you to help!

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**



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## A Word of Thanks

To all of my many friends at C.U.C.C.  
I wish this New Year will bring blessings to each  
of you.

Blessings come in so many ways. For me they  
arrived on a plate of Beautiful cookies each one  
tasted so sweet. The real blessing was the  
many hands that made and delivered them.  
Thank You. Cards arrived too, and so did a gift  
bag. Your loving sharing ways touch so many.

Thank you. Martha Seif



Dear CUCC family and friends –

Thank you so much for your Christmas  
gift! While I was not expecting to be  
included this year, I am grateful to still be  
considered one of your pastors. Thanks  
for your thoughtfulness and warm  
embrace.

Gratefully,  
Pastor Connie

Dear CUCC –

Thank you for remembering me at  
Christmas. I certainly was not expecting a  
gift, but it was so very thoughtful of you  
to think of me. Thank you for making me  
feel like the work I do here is important  
and valued.

Carla Rush  
Office Manager

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Contact CUCC:

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