



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

## e-Communigram

Volume 61, Issue 12 – December 1 - 31, 2022

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

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### Letters from Leah

"September took forever. October felt normal. November flew by. How is it the start of Advent already?" a volunteer said as we readied the Fellowship Hall for Jubilee Cafe. Upstairs, the sanctuary has been decked for over a week: stars are hung, garland draped, purple paraments placed. This year, the tree has a new home, towering over us in the loft -- it makes our sacred space look grand in a way I have never before experienced. The sanctuary is ready. Are we?

As I write, we are steadily moving towards Christmas with less than under four weeks to go. We have officially reached the point when I am strategizing about the calendar: what can wait until after Christmas? It's easy to end up buried by parties and preparations this time of year...Organizing. Shopping. Planning. Wrapping. Budgeting. Stressing. Eating. Stress-eating...all of this on top of the rest of our lives, that which cannot wait until after the New Year, is a lot!

Curious, isn't it, that our season of waiting is filled with so much busyness? Advent is story after story of waiting: Mary and Joseph wait for the birth of Jesus, the world waits for the birth of our Savior, all of us wait for the coming of the fullness of the Kin-dom of God.

The kind of waiting we do as people of faith seems so different than our worldly waiting, a never-ending list of deadlines and things that should have been done yesterday. Amid all of it, if we let it be, Advent can be a season that is not so much marked by busyness, but by intentionality, which is, itself, its own kind of waiting. UCC pastor, Rev. Kathy Jurgens, writes, "We could eat more slowly and savor our food. We could do one thing at a time instead of attempting to multitask and making mistakes. We could really pay attention to the loved ones around us and remind ourselves what we appreciate about them. We could slow down and look at nature as we go by. We could really take time to notice those we meet who we don't know. We could slow down the amount of time it takes to read this article and the entire newsletter. And we can slow down our time with God. We can take time to pray, to listen for the Holy Spirit, and open our eyes to where God and Jesus are in our midst." When we do, we find Christ to be born among us everywhere we look and the Kin-dom of God springing up in the most unlikely of places.

Do we dare slow down enough this Advent season to wait and see? Join me in trying.

Blessings,

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

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## A note from your Music Director

### CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES

#### Now seeking Christmas eve singers!

I'd love to have CUCC folks of all ages, and any visiting guests join us Christmas eve on our choral anthem, *Still, Still, Still*. Kathy is making learning tracks to help those who do not read music learn their parts. If you'd like to join, please let her know, and she will send you sheet music, a learning track, and expect to see you Christmas eve at 5:30PM for rehearsal.



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.

Contact me with any questions you may have or to be added to our choir email list. I hope to sing with you soon!

-Kathy Lee (she/her): [music@community-ucc.org](mailto:music@community-ucc.org) / 203-605-3830

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## Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 10, 12:30pm



The Care Team has planned a family friendly afternoon of Christmas Caroling for our at home members. This event is set for Saturday, December 10 from 12:30pm to approximately 4:00pm. We will gather at church at 12:30pm where we will sign cards for those we will visit, hand out maps, schedules, and music. All you need to bring is your enthusiastic voices and masks. Be sure to come dressed in your finest Christmas attire (funny Christmas sweaters are encouraged). We will carpool from the church to four residential care facilities in Urbana, Champaign, and Savoy.

This event always means so much to the CUCC at home members we visit and it's fun (and often touching) for the carolers themselves. If you plan to attend, please contact me, Marilou Hinrichs at [mhmail@comcast.net](mailto:mhmail@comcast.net) or 217-637-6107 so I can get an idea of the numbers and get your contact information. (With Covid and Flu, a last-minute cancellation is always possible in care facilities.) It is best if carolers can join us for the entire afternoon, but if your schedule only permits an hour or two on the afternoon of the 10th, I can provide a schedule ahead of time so you can join us when able.

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## Longest Night Worship

December 11, 6:30 pm

Join us on Sunday, December 11, 2022, 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. This worship service will be in person only.

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## Wassail Punch and Christmas Cookies Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 18, 11:30am

We will gather for a **special Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** after church, **with Christmas cookies, wassail punch and cold punch.**

The Hospitality Team will provide the wassail and punch, but **we invite you to bring a plate of Christmas cookies with you that Sunday to share during coffee hour.** Also, **if you want to bring 2 plates of cookies**, we could save the 2<sup>nd</sup> plate and wrap up cookies for our at home members and for our Jubilee Café guests. We will have a separate table set up in the parlor for your extra plate of cookies. It will be fun to spread a little “sugary” Christmas joy with others and to enjoy the Christmas goodies during coffee hour!



If you would rather drop off your cookies earlier than Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>, you can leave them in the upstairs kitchen Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. when the office is open. **Happy Cookie Baking!**

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## Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24, 6:30pm



We will gather in the Sanctuary for our traditional Christmas Eve worship service on Saturday, December 24, 2022, at 6:30pm. Worship will be streamed on Facebook Live and Zoom. *If the service is streamed on Facebook and Zoom, the video may be lost 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.

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## Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25, 10:15am

We will gather for worship on Sunday, December 25, 2022, at 10:0:15am on *Facebook Live* or *Zoom* in the comfort of our homes dressed in our Christmas pjs with a mug of hot cocoa to worship the newborn king. Worship will only be livestreamed on Christmas Day, so please do not come to the church building, it will be quiet as a mouse.



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## CUCC Fall 2022 COVID Update

The CUCC Covid Task Force met on Monday, November 21, 2022 to discuss closing the windows in the parlor. We have decided to close the windows at this time. In consultation with the Champaign Urbana Public Health Department, we will open the windows when warmer weather returns. We will open the windows to be cautious as possible. We trust the filters in place throughout the church and we trust you to mask as necessary. The health and safety of our congregation and community continues to be our number one priority. Thank you for understanding the care and concern taken in making these decisions.



Safely,

The CUCC Covid Task Force

Erin Ewoldt (Moderator), Johnalene Radek (Incoming Moderator), Elizabeth Shack (Past Moderator), Kathy Lee (Music Director), and Reverend Leah Robbets-Mosser (Pastor)

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## Baptism of our Lord

Sunday, January 15, 2023



January 15, 2023 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?

If you are interested in being baptized or having someone (a child) in your family baptized on January 15, please contact Carla in the church office at 217-334-5091 or by email at [info@community-ucc.org](mailto:info@community-ucc.org).

And yes, we will have Epiphany Star gifts, with your word for the year, for everyone on January 8 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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## Mission Ministry

### Alternative Christmas Market During Advent!

Would you like to take some of the commercialism out of Christmas and at the same time provide help to our friends from several of our local C-U mission partners? This is your opportunity!

During the first 3 Sundays of Advent (November 27th, December 4th, and December 11th) we will have an Alternative Christmas Market! We will be "selling" items needed by several of our local mission partners: Caminos, The Trauma and Resilience Initiative, and Canteen Run. Items will be available at a variety of price points from \$5 to \$50, so that you can choose something to fit your budget. You will be able to make donations for items in honor of family or friends on your Christmas list, filling out a form to show your choice of item and the person who the gift is honoring. If it is not convenient for you to fill out your form(s) at church, you may do so online by using the following tiny URL or scanning the QR code below.

<https://tinyurl.com/Alternative-Christmas-Market>

Be sure to fill out a separate form for each person you wish to honor. Then go to [community-ucc.org](https://community-ucc.org), click on "donate" and use the drop-down menu to pay for your donation on the line marked "Alternative Christmas Market".



On December 18, you will receive a personalized ornament to attach to a present, stick in a stocking, or pop in an envelope, telling your friend or family member about the gift given in their honor. Better yet, we will be able to provide these needed items to the organizations we have been partnering with! We hope you will find this a fun and helpful way to share abundance with those who need it in our community, as well as sharing that feeling of generosity with those you love! Please have the forms and funds turned in by December 11.

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## Christmas Fund offering



The UCC 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, Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Please help us support this worthy cause and help us go 5 for 5 with our national UCC offerings. We will collect for this offering December 18, 24, and 25.



Team Leaders,  
Kristy Brownfield and Jeanne Ward

## News from the John Bandy Center



Pastor Connie, Sue Osborne, and Barbara England invite you to join them at their blog, Spirit on the Prairie ([spiritontheprairie.blogspot.com](http://spiritontheprairie.blogspot.com)), during Advent. There you will find a brief



meditation on a scripture passage, images for reflection, and other resources to help you find moments of peace during this holy season. New posts go up each Sunday in Advent and on Christmas Eve. Our theme this year is "Seekers of Light." We will also offer some suggestions to help you carry the theme forward into the Twelve Days of Christmastide. You are welcome to simply visit the site, of course, but if you would like

to be on the email list to know when a new entry is posted, please let Pastor Connie know by emailing [connie@community-ucc.org](mailto:connie@community-ucc.org).

The Photography as Prayer group will meet on Wednesdays, December 7 and 14, at 10 a.m. at Pekara on Springfield and Prospect. During the colder weather we have decided to read *Eyes of the Heart: Photography as Christian Contemplative Practice* by Christine Valtner Paintner. We invite you to read along with us! We will also be launching some new ways to share our work with you (and let you interact and share your reactions, too) during the new year. Please watch for them!



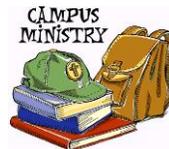
When Jubilee Cafe returned indoors on November 14, we began offering a free book exchange downstairs near the kitchen. This unofficial "little free library" is available to everyone. The "rules" are simple. If you see something you like, take it! And if you have books to donate, please bring them to the church. You can either put them on the shelves downstairs or in the donation box outside the sanctuary. If you would be willing to be one of the stewards of this ministry, please let Pastor Connie know as soon as possible. Being a steward simply means keeping the shelves neat and helping keep track of books that have been on the shelves more than two months so that they can be donated to Books for Prisoners or Orphans Treasure Box-- nothing too hard or time consuming! The book exchange is sponsored by the John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith (in token of John's love of reading).

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## Campus Ministry Queering Faith 6.0

Friday, February 10, 2023

Guest speaker Matthias Roberts.



Matthias Roberts (he/him) is a queer psychotherapist, podcaster, and author of *Beyond Shame: Creating a Healthy Sex Life on Your Own Terms* (Fortress/Broadleaf, 2020.) He hosts *Queerology: A Podcast on Belief and Being* and co-hosts *Selfie* alongside fellow therapist Kristen Howerton. Matthias holds two master's degrees, one in Theology & Culture and one in Counseling Psychology from The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology.

Matthias' work has been featured by *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *Bustle*, *Woman's Day*, *Sojourners*, *The Seattle Times*, and many others. He is a Fellow at the Allender Center, a nonprofit helping survivors of trauma and abuse heal by stepping courageously into their stories of pain and harm. In his psychotherapy practice,

Matthias specializes in helping LGBTQ+ people recover from religious and spiritual trauma so they might live confident and fulfilling lives.

Matthias writes and speaks nationwide about the intersections between gender, sexuality, mental health, and theology. His newest book, *Holy Runaways* will be released in Fall 2023.

<https://matthiasroberts.com/about/> [Back to Top](#)

-Rev. Nate Brantingham  
(He, Him, His)

Director of Campus Ministry  
UCF at Community UCC  
(509) 434 9356



### Update from Stewardship Co-Chairs Johnalene Radek and Jonathan Ebel

We opened our stewardship campaign on October 9<sup>th</sup> this year, focusing on the theme "From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving" and the many table stories from the New Testament, which tell of coming together and sharing abundance. With beautiful materials and heartfelt testimonials provided by Cara Finnegan and John Murphy, Jon Ebel, Joel Brotherton, Izzy Collazo, Sabrina Lee, and Jennifer and Grant Robbennolt, we reached the CUCC community with the written and the spoken word. Thank you to all who had a hand in this year's campaign, including Peg and Roger Wade, Tom and Jeanne Ward, Carla Rush and all of the ministry team leads, who recorded videos describing what their ministry brings to the table.

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, the totals are:

Pledges made: 46

Pledged total: \$182,009

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. 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](https://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.

## Jubilee Café

Jubilee Café has returned to in person dining, and this requires many additional volunteers to make Jubilee Café fun smoothly. If you would be willing to volunteer, anyone older than 18 is welcome to come and help at Jubilee Café. There are still many open slots on many of the Monday nights volunteer list. Please look at the list and consider volunteering. If you are willing to volunteer, the sign up link is here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849a9a62da5f58-volunteer> Questions, contact Johnell at [johnell.bentz@gmail.com](mailto:johnell.bentz@gmail.com), for more information. ~Johnell Bentz



### Jubilee Café Looking for Volunteers

Jubilee Cafe is making plans to go back to in person dining on **November 14**. We are very excited to welcome our guests back inside on Monday nights. Many volunteers are needed to make this work including:

- Dining Room Prep (2)
- Greeter (2)
- Host
- Monitor Beverages (2)
- Plate Food (4)
- Serve (6)
- Dishwasher/Clear Table (3)
- Clean-up Manager
- Clean-up (4)
- Fill Pantry Orders (2)

Questions: contact Johnell Bentz,  
[johnell.bentz@gmail.com](mailto:johnell.bentz@gmail.com)

Sign up  
link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849a9a62da5f58-volunteer>

Date	Hot Meals & Heat at Home
11/7/2022	112
11/14/2022	99
11/21/2022	38
11/28/2022	98
<b>Meals Served</b>	<b>347</b>

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Nov. 14, 2022 (edited to say: this is 1 of a 3 part report from last night.)

After 696 days, [Jubilee Cafe CUCC](#) has returned inside! The lights were on, the music was playing, and more than one guest got teary eyed tonight, as did some of our volunteers. People were so grateful to be eating inside again. Tonight, we served 52 to go meals, 32 in house, and 15 heat at home for a total of 99 meals. Guests had a choice of regular or vegetarian pizza strata. The meat version had pepperoni while the vegetarian version was studded with our housemade vegan pepperoni. It's delicious. All dishes were served with a side of green beans. Yes had their choice of pumpkin tarts or pumpkin pecan bundt cake. Pre-covid, we did not serve to go meals nor have pantry items. But both became such essential parts of our ministry that we decided to try it inside. Many hours have been spent figuring out protocols and procedures for serving both to-go and eat-in guests, plus bagging pantry items. I'm so proud of the CUCCers who put their heart and soul into this ministry, who continuously tweak our Jubilee systems so that it's a good experience for both our guests and volunteers. Good work, everyone! And thanks. So many folks talked with me about their lack of housing. We gave out plenty of sleeping bags and coats. The weather has turned cold and folks are struggling. If you would, please hold our guests in the light of God's love. It takes an army of volunteers to serve folks with such intentionality. If you'd like to serve, especially next week when our student volunteers may be away, please go to the sign up genius pinned to the top of the Jubilee FB page and volunteer.

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

(edited to say: this is 2 of a 3 part report from last night.)

I woke up thinking about our [Jubilee Cafe CUCC](#) guests who are unhoused and unsheltered. While you and I may have woken up in warm beds, they woke up outside with the snow falling on their heads.

While fitting a new guest for a coat last night, his buddy, who is not a new guest, asked if we might have another one for him. "You guys gave me this one a couple weeks ago," he said gesturing towards a beige coat draped over a chair back. "But it's a woman's. Do you have a man's?" That's fair. While some people would grouse at his ask, citing some 'poor people should be grateful for whatever they get' line of bullshit, that's not how we operate it at Jubilee. People need to be treated with dignity. A coat that you feel good in, that you want to wear - - that's dignity stuff. However...

We have lots of smaller sizes, but not many L, XL, and larger. Even our guests with smaller frames opt for larger outerwear because they have to wear layers to stay warm. I went to look and came back with a lined trench coat, the last of the larger sizes. He tried it; it fit and looked great besides. When you are unhoused, how you look really matters. You have to be able to pass. The last thing you want is to walk in somewhere and immediately have people assume that you're going to be trouble because you look like trouble. But this coat will do just fine, although his face might give it away. Our unhoused guests look weathered, too tan from being outside all day everyday, wizened before they're due.

He adjusted the new coat. "Do you want this back?" he asked, gesturing to the old one.

Puzzled, I countered, "Don't you want it, for an extra layer of warmth?" The new trench coat is a little big. The old one will fit nicely underneath. Besides, I'd already given him a sleeping bag. I know he's not going to be inside anywhere anytime soon. "No," he said. "I don't want to take it away from somebody else."

And that's how God's economy works. God's economy is based on having what you need for today and sharing the rest -- it's manna from heaven, leaves from heaven. God's economy is also based on people who know what to do with coats that need to be freshened up so they can have a new life. That right there, that's the resurrection.

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

## Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!

Thursday, December 1 – Saturday, December 31



Thursday, December 1, 7:00am: Men's Breakfast at Urbana Garden Restaurant

Sunday, December 4, 3:00pm: IT and Hospitality Team attending the play "A Christmas Story" followed by dinner at El Toro Bravo

Wednesday, December 7, 10:00 am: Photography as Prayer group meets at Pekara on Springfield

Saturday, December 10, 12:30pm-4:00pm: Christmas Caroling to at Home Members

Saturday, December 10, 12:30pm-4:00pm: Youth Group goes Christmas Caroling to at Home Members

Sunday, December 11, 11:30am-3:15pm: OWL Class in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 11, 11:30am: Budget Meeting

Sunday, December 11, 6:30pm: The Longest Night Service (in person worship service only, no live stream)

Tuesday, December 13, 11:30pm: CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Gathering at Red Lobster

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00pm: CUCC Choir Christmas Party in Parlor

Sunday, December 18, 11:30am: Special Coffee Hour with Christmas Cookies, Wassil punch, cold punch (everyone invited to bring cookies to share)

Saturday, December 24, 6:30pm: Christmas Eve Worship Service

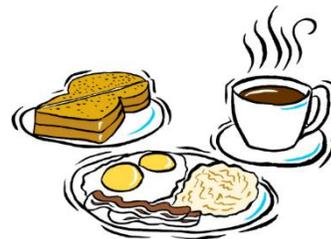
Sunday, December 25, 10:15am: Christmas Day Worship Service Facebook Live and Zoom only, no in-person

*Be sure to check the CUCC Facebook page for updates.*



## Men's Breakfast

The Men of CUCC meet the first Thursday of each month for breakfast. Join us at 7:00am on **December 1** for breakfast if you feel comfortable venturing out to eat. We'd love to see you in person at Urbana Family Garden. Anyone who identifies as a man is welcome.



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

## CUCC Retired "Cool Kids" Monthly Lunch Group

The Retiree's "Cool Kids" Monthly Lunch Group will meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in December** rather than the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday falls during Christmas week and several folks were busy or out of town that week. So... our **December lunch will be on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. at Red Lobster in Champaign.** A reminder email will be sent out to the group. -Peg & Roger



## Individuals Together

Five members of the Individuals Together group enjoyed a warm and cozy Friendsgiving meal on Nov. 12 in our CUCC parlor. We ordered yummy food from Cracker Barrel, so we didn't have to cook (except for Kent who brought his homemade brownies for dessert). We had good conversation and even watched a holiday movie that Keri set up for us!

It felt like we were in someone's living room, complete with the cozy furniture! We even had plenty of leftovers to take home and hope more persons who live alone can join us next year for this favorite event.

Our next event will be Dec. 4 when we go to see "A Christmas Story" play at Parkland theater, and then out for dinner at El Toro Bravo. This event is open to all, as there are 2 CUCC kiddos IN THE PLAY, Aiden Larkin and Zoe Harms! Come on out and give them some CUCC support and enjoy a fun-filled day together.



Individuals Together is CUCC's group for persons who live alone, for whatever reason, either part-time or full-time. To be added to our email list, please contact Linda Morgan at 217-649-3778

## Youth Group

The December Youth Event has been rescheduled and the youth will join the Care Team and Congregation for Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 10. Met at the church at 12:30pm. Parents please contact Marilou Hinrichs at [mhmail@comcast.net](mailto:mhmail@comcast.net) or 217-637-6107.



Date, Time	Event	Chaperones	Notes
12/10, 12:30-4:00pm	Christmas Caroling	Met at church to carpool	

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## Worship Ministry



### Get Involved in Worship

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

**Liturgist:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgist6>

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-greeter6>

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-usher5>

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 the worship service.



## December Worship Assistants

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
<b>Liturgist</b>	Campus Ministry	Rocio Arroyave-Jamison	Tom Ward	Johnalene Radek
<b>Usher</b>	Tom Ward			
<b>Greeter</b>				

## Public theologian — a pastor who ‘sits with weirdoes’ — will be 2023 Synod keynoter

by [Hans Holznagel](#) | published on Nov 8, 2022

The keynote speaker has been named for the United Church of Christ’s 2023 General Synod. She’s a Lutheran minister [described by one national news service](#) as “a former standup comedian and recovering alcoholic with a streak of dark humor.”

Another news outlet [noted](#) her “unusual form of evangelism,” which “may be the only kind that can break through the crust of dislike and suspicion which insulates increasing numbers of younger Americans from Christianity.”

As for herself, the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber [says](#) she’s someone who “always sits in the corner with the other weirdoes.”

A best-selling author and the founding pastor of Denver’s [House for All Sinners & Saints](#), Bolz-Weber will speak Saturday, July 1, during the UCC’s biennial national meeting at the [Indiana Convention Center](#) in Indianapolis.

Registration will open in early January at the [General Synod website](#). Registered visitors, like all delegates, will have access to the keynote as well as the Synod’s many exhibits and business sessions, June 30–July 4.



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Date/Time/Location	Chapters
December 11, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	11: Sexuality and Disability
	12: Healthy relationships
	Parent orientation 2: Mid-Session Questions and Video Preview
January 7, 5pm thru January 8, 4 pm, location TBA (times may differ depending on location)	13: Relationship Skills
	14: Sexuality, Social Media, and the Internet
	15: Bullying and Bystander Responsibilities
	16: Redefining Abstinence
	17: Lovemaking
	18: Consent Education
January 22, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	Make up day (if needed)
February 12, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	19: Sexually Transmitted Infections
	20: Pregnancy, Parenting, and Teenage Parenthood
March 5, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	21: unintended Pregnancy Options
	22: Contraception and Safer Sex
April 2, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	23: Sexual Decision Making
	24: Communicating with a Sexual Partner
April 16, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	Make up day (if needed)
May 7, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	25: Self-care, Celebration, and Closure
May 21, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	Make up day (if needed)



### 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	<a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgist6">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-liturgist6</a>
Worship Team	Greeter	Susan Pawlicki	<a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeter6">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-greeter6</a>
Worship Team	Usher	Susan Pawlicki	<a href="mailto:spawlicki2@hotmail.com">spawlicki2@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-usher5">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fadaf2aa1fa7-usher5</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:jemcclure4@gmail.com">jemcclure4@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>



### 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=UmMwdW01ZFBmV0hpZmxrRWNIUmhwdz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/815146054?pwd=UmMwdW01ZFBmV0hpZmxrRWNIUmhwdz09</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=SkXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVf0QTO9">https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SkXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVf0QTO9</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)
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)



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