



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-Communigram

Volume 62, Issue 5 – May 1 - 31

Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

[Letters from Leah](#) • [News from the John Bandy Center](#) • [Ground Maintenance and Mowing](#) • [Notes from your Music Director](#) • [Adult OWL Registration Now Open](#) • [Raise Right](#) • [Campus Ministry](#) • [Pack a Pew Sunday](#) • [Young Adult Fellowship Group](#) • [Congratulations to the CUCC High School Graduates](#) • [Congratulations to the CUCC College/Grad School Graduates](#) • [Jubilee Café](#) • [Jubilee Café Summer Volunteer Opportunities](#) • [Upcoming One-Time Events](#) • [Mission Ministry](#) • [Men's Breakfast](#) • [CUCC Retired "Cool Kids" Monthly Lunch Group](#) • [Individuals Together](#) • [Worship Ministry](#) • [OWL Schedule](#) • [Sola Gratia Spring Plant Sale](#) • [St. Matthew Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School](#) • [Volunteer Opportunities at CUCC](#) • [Zoom Meetings and Events at CUCC](#)

Letters from Leah

Dear community,

Thank you for showing up on April 30th, and I don't just mean showing up in enough numbers that we had a quorum for our special congregational meeting. Without that, all the other ways in which you showed up would have been delayed. Thanks for showing up with your questions. Invested you are the level of detail contained in your questions. You asked questions about the process, the background, the economics, the timeline. You asked so many questions about the what and the how, but you never asked why. That's the thing that I noticed the most. That's the reason why I continue to be grateful to be in mutual ministry with you you get our why. You understand what is at the core of our communities Mission, Value, and Vision. We are a just peace, open and affirming, theologically progressive congregation that has been planted in the heart of the University of Illinois campus for over 100 years. Ministry with and for young people is part of what we are called to do and be. The what and how of that Ministry has changed often over the last century, in fact it's changed several times in the 13 years that I've been here, even more so since the pandemic. But the why has never changed. So, thank you for showing up weak and voting unanimously to continue to invest in ministry with Youth and Young Adults.

The scope of work document has already been sent off to the Illinois conference and posted on their website. Please share and share widely. The person God is calling to come and work with us is someone you know. In the coming days, a search committee will be formed and trained, a job description will be written, edited (and edited again....and again) and eventually approved by both the UCC Campus Ministry Board and your Church Life aboard, and, hopefully, we will begin receiving applications. As much as I would like to be able to point to a section of a manual somewhere that explains exactly how distinct but related Ministries in the United Church of Christ call one person to a yoked position, that paragraph does not exist. But we will figure out the details as we go along based on best practices -- between our two entities, we have at least eight ordained folks and countless persons who have been involved in church search processes....wisdom abounds! When the search committee discerns that they have a candidate, that candidate will need to be presented both to the congregation and to campus ministry.

It is the hope of both Boards that we have someone in place for the start of the new school year. That's why this search process felt quicker than any search process in which you have ever been involved. It was! And it will continue to be. We are building the bike while riding it while we're still trying to figure out if this is the model of bike we want. And that will be true during these two years of designated ministry.

All that is to say we need to keep showing up. We'll need to keep showing up and asking the whats and hows of this venture. We will need to show up to support this new staff person as they figure out the landscape of both of our institutions. We will need to show up to serve when opportunities are presented. And we will need to show up to evaluate and discern further as the

circumstances continually call us, leading us into a new future. I trust that you will. Because that's what you do, CUCC. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



When I arrived at Hanover College the chaplain was an interim who reminded me too much of Tammy Faye Bakker with her big blond hair and caked-on makeup. By the end of the year, she was gone. A new, permanent chaplain, who happened to be UCC, was headed our way. Dr. Michael Duffy. When he arrived, I introduced myself immediately, attended chapel and soon discovered that he was my introduction to Theology professor. I loved this class. I had a lot of things to say and questions that overflowed class time. Soon, Dr. Duffy hired me as the chaplain's assistant which meant he really was paying me to sit in his office and talk about theology. But it also meant that he hired me as a research assistant to gather data for an ethical position paper he was writing on RU-486, otherwise known as mifepristone, which had entered the pipeline for approval from the FDA in March 1996. This work fit in line with Dr. Duffy's main academic interest -- Christian Sexual Ethics. Shortly after arriving at Hanover, he taught the inaugural class of the same name, which became the ground from which his 2011 book, "Making Sense of Sex: Responsible Decision Making for Young Singles," would grow. I was a beta reader for that book and one of the endorsers on its back cover. Most of my undergraduate theological study touched on Sexual Ethics in some way or another, from the in-depth study I did of age of majority laws and contraception access from state-to-state, to the semesters spent on the Rape Crisis team and the way that work became the focus of my final project for The Practice of Christian Ministry, to all the coursework I did in Feminist Liberation Theology and its honoring our bodies, mutuality, and erotic love as sacred.

And that's why I had to laugh at myself when I felt so at home in OWL training last summer. "Oh right..." looking back through old journals, this area of study is something I've thought about engaging over and over again. Being the pastor of the church with the flags and doing so much advocacy work around sexual orientation, questions in this realm pop up all the time, not in hypothetical ways, but in real flesh and blood ways, for people trying to reconcile their lived experience with the bad theology they have been taught. I've notes from several conversations with colleagues about books we thought about co-writing...outlines and storylines. The idea was there but the energy was not.

That changed when I asked the Rev. Jennifer Aull to be part of The Word Made Flesh worship series we did last fall. What you saw in worship was only a glimpse of the conversations that took place in preparation for each Sunday. Those conversations were exciting and there was always more than Jen and I could actually cover in a short phone call. We bemoaned the lack of resources - - so many are hard to find and even harder to access ideologically. We longed for easier access to sex-positive resources, from a progressive Christian perspective, with a solid clinical foundation. And we decided to make the thing we thought was needed.

And so "Sex Positive God Pod: Progressive Pastors Answer Your Sex and Relationship Questions" was born. We are set to launch the podcast on June 1. I will let you know how to find it. We have several episodes recorded and each episode has a theme based on listener questions. For these first episodes, folks in our personal and social media circles submitted questions. Send your questions to sexpositivegodpod@gmail.com. and a big thanks to the CUCCers who have supported this experiment, especially Pastoral Relations, Keri Evans, and Sue Osborne.

A PostScript: May 20th, I'll be back at Hanover to celebrate Dr Duffy's retirement. I didn't know he was retiring when Jen and I decided to do the podcast. Feels like a bit of a mantle passing moment, one I'm glad I did not know about when she and I decided to launch, but one which in retrospect, feels like a blessing from beyond.

Blessings,

Pastor Leah

[Back to Top](#)

News from the John Bandy Center

It's May! That means it's time to Stroll for Your Soul, an annual resource from The Prayer Bench, offered to you through our John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith. "Stroll" is meant to help us get back in the habit of moving again after a long winter indoors. Those who choose to participate will receive a brief email each morning for three weeks, with inspiration to walk and something to ponder as you do that. There will be a welcome email on May 12, with the daily emails arriving May 13-June 2.



Those who have already signed up for this year's Prayer Bench resource subscription will automatically receive these. But we also have the option of adding unlimited participants just for the Stroll. If you would like to be part of this year's offering--or would just like to sample the Prayer Bench resources without making a long-term commitment-- please email Pastor Connie (connie@community-ucc.org) no later than **May 8** so she can get you added to the email list at the Prayer Bench. If you do that, you will only receive the Stroll emails and not the rest of the annual subscription resources.

If you would be interested in a weekly "stroll together" to walk and talk about the emails from the week, please let Pastor Connie know that, too. If there's interest, we can work together to find a time and place that will work for the most people.

CHECK IT OUT!

The John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith offers a wide variety of resources for those interested in deepening their spiritual lives. You can check materials out for three weeks (longer if you need them and no one else is waiting), so come in and browse! This month we spotlight:

***The Kindness Handbook* by Sharon Salzberg**

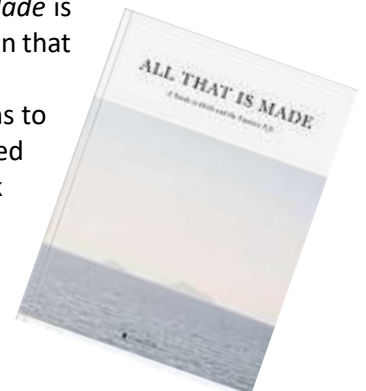


"In *The Kindness Handbook*, Sharon Salzberg explores with insight and clarity how kindness for ourselves and others can be the quality we choose to steer our lives by. From the foundation of this transformative practice and its entry point through you, to its daily expression in your life, this book features a thoughtful collection of anecdotes, stories, and practical tools to inspire kindness for any life situation." Grounded in her own Dharma practice, Salzberg writes for a non-sectarian audience.

***All That is Made: A Guide to Faith and the Creative Life* from the Alabaster Co.**

According to Geoff Gentry and Bryan Ye-Chung, founders of the Alabaster Co., "*All That is Made* is both a theological reflection and an invitation. Blending these elements brings forth a conversation that is both contemplative and active."

In a series of essays accompanied by beautiful photos, the authors explore what it means to be both a created being and to be invited to co-create with the Great Creator. The book is divided into three sections: A Liturgy for Creatives (focusing on the understanding of liturgy as "the work of the people"); On Becoming Creative; and Creativity in the Life of Jesus. This book is both challenging and soul-refreshing.



[Back to Top](#)

Ground Maintenance and Mowing



Spring has sprung which means there are many opportunities available for mowing and ground maintenance (pick up trash)

weekly at the church and at 510 E. Daniel (next to the church). The dates listed are Saturdays, but you could do it any day of the week you wish to. The church has a working self-propelled mower and Matthew Hart can supply all volunteers with the combination to the shed. Please scan the QR Code or go to the Sign-Up Genius <https://tinyurl.com/yy6wh2jj> if you are willing to help.



Notes from your Music Director

Summer Music: As some of you know, our choir and my role as Music Director pause from mid-May to mid-August each year. During the summer months, Aaron will continue to play for services, and I am looking for volunteers to offer anthems while our choir is on break. Leah is working on the theme for summer services, and once I have more information, I will create a sign-up.



Chime Opportunity: I'm open to adding chime choir opportunities to our music schedule in the fall, and I'd like to gauge interest from people who have chimed before AND those who have not. Previous musical experience is helpful but not required. Please fill out this survey to let me know your interest and availability by scanning the QR Code or going to the form at: <https://forms.gle/1jgbj4U83hmHzDFA8>



Please contact me with questions or ideas: music@community-ucc.org.

Kathy Lee

Adult OWL Registration Now Open

Adult OWL Registration, for people up to age 55 is now open. The OWL Program offers so much material that a participant survey will be sent to you upon registration to allow the leaders to determine the outline for the class. The schedule is listed with the registration.



Please register and fill out the participant survey by scanning the QR Code or going to the Goggle Document at: <https://tinyurl.com/ykkb46w9>

Please note that this is a curriculum used by certified educators not a church version of sex ed.

The participant goals for each workshop are listed on the next page

[Back to Top](#)

Our Whole Lives Adult Workshop Participant Goals

Participant Goals	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To experience an interesting and affirming introduction to the values, content, and logistics OWL. • To adopt group ground rules and become acquainted with facilitators and other participants. • To explore understandings of what sexuality includes. • To identify resources that can increase understanding and appreciation of human sexuality.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To engage in and become comfortable with open communication about human sexuality. • To review knowledge of anatomy, express feelings about sexuality using poetry, and experiment with sexual language. • To discuss and understand some of the barriers to communication about sexuality. • To identify resources concerned with communication, sexuality, and sexual anatomy.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify how sexuality and sensuality permeate human life at all ages. • To identify events and issues that mark sexual development as well as resources about sexual development • To understand gender similarities and differences in the sexual life cycle. • To consider the discovery of personal sexual orientation as a process experienced by all individuals. • To explore the subject of masturbation
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand how common terms for sexual activity may limit understanding. • To refresh knowledge about interpersonal sexual connections, noting that "sex" is much broader than just intercourse. • To explore why people seek interpersonal sexual connections and consider interpersonal sexual activities in terms of increasing intimacy • To identify resources concerned with the subjects of sexual connections including intercourse.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore the nature of sexual attraction and the role of sexuality at the beginning of relationships. • To consider various ideas about sexual attraction and passion, including the "triangular theory of love." • To discuss what people look for when seeking mates. • To reflect on moments of sexual attraction in their own lives. • To identify resources concerned with the subjects of sexual attraction and early relationships.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore the nature of developing relationships and the role that sexuality plays in them. • To consider the nature of intimacy in friendships and romantic relationships. • To discuss when it is appropriate for sexual activity to be part of developing relationships and what forces/elements build and threaten romantic relationships. • To identify resources for issues in developing relationships and the place of sexual activity in them.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore the nature of committed sexual relationships and the role of sexuality in committed relationships. • To name forces that undermine and identify ways to nurture/sustain committed relationships. • To identify resources concerned with the subjects of love and committed relationships.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore the meaning and nature of sexual diversity and increase self-knowledge. • To build acceptance and understanding of diverse identities and behaviors. • To explore how societal tolerance of diversity might be increased. • To identify resources that further understanding and appreciation of diverse sexual identities.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the nature of family and explore gender roles within the family • To explore family attitudes toward and communication about various sexuality issues. • To consider how families influence personal attitudes about sexual diversity. • To identify resources concerned with the subject of families
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider and confront ageism and understand aging as it relates to sexuality, especially in later years. • To explore the impact of disabilities on sexuality and sexual activity • To explore your attitudes toward and experience of aging and identify resources about sexuality and aging.
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess personal sexual health, understand that it involves psyches, emotions, relationships, and the body. • To consider societal attitudes toward healthy sexual behavior. • To explore what constitutes healthy sexual relationships. • To identify resources that can help them understand, achieve, and maintain good sexual health.

Raise Right



RaiseRight Tip #3: Use the App

The RaiseRight app makes using scrip really easy. Download the app (RaiseRight Fundraising) to your phone and login to your account. Within the app you can shop for your favorite egift cards, as well as see your wallet and account details. Buying a gift card and putting it in your wallet works the same way as it does on the website. But it is really easy to pay using egift cards using the app on your phone. Open your wallet and click on the egift card you want to use. At the top of the screen, you will see a barcode icon with a message that says "Use Card." When you click that link, a window will open that displays a QR code for the cashier to scan. In some cases, the cashier will also need the PIN # that also appears on that screen. Easy! It is so easy that once you have the hang of it, you can even buy egift cards to use while you are standing in the checkout line to use for your purchase.



For help with sign up or questions, contact Jen Robbennolt at: jennifer.robbennolt@gmail.com.

Campus Ministry

[Back to Top](#)

As another semester and year wraps up for the students, Pastor Nate and campus ministry would like to thank everyone for their support and another successful year (nearly) in the bag. If there is anything we hoped to accomplish this year it would be to love the students at UIUC (in our program and beyond) in ways that mirror the love of Christ for each of us. Which is to say, with radical acceptance, understanding, and joy. Through our conversation, programs, hosting, and of course worship and Jubilee Cafe, I think it is safe to say we have met that goal. We would also encourage everyone to come to May 7th for our Milestone Sunday service to celebrate our graduating seniors!



Does this work?

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



[Back to Top](#)



Pictures from Sunday, April 23, Campus Ministry Sunday and Celebration of Pastor Nate Brantingham's ministry at Community United Church of Christ. Many of the Campus Ministry students and several congregation members wore onesies to show community. The students who shared messages that day also spoke about the community they found at Community United Church of Christ through Jubilee Café and Campus Ministry.

Pack a Pew Sunday

Every month CUCC will have a special *Pack A Pew* Sunday. The point of Pack A Pew is to literally pack the pews with bodies. Come to worship in person, if you're able, invite your friends. Special things will happen in worship and in fellowship that day. Our first Pack A Pew Sunday is the 1st Sunday in May, Milestone Sunday! Please come, we want to shower all of our graduates with love, care, and good wishes for their future. Your presence matters. Join us for worship every Sunday. Our summer Pack A Pew Sundays are scheduled for June 11, July 16 and August 27.



Young Adult Fellowship Group



Are you twenty-something, thirty-something, not a student, or a grad-student looking for a way to connect at CUCC? The new CUCC Young Adult Fellowship Group is for you. Join us on the lawn at Japan House for a Potluck Picnic at 6:30pm Tuesday, May 30. See Pastor Leah or Emma Winnicki-Smith for questions.

[Back to Top](#)

Congratulations to the CUCC High School Graduates



<i>Anya Gardner</i>	After graduating from Champaign Central High School, Anya will be attending Illinois State University majoring in Criminal Justice Science.
<i>Adina Gerstenecker</i>	After graduating from Urbana High School, Adina will be attending Iowa State University to study technical communications.
<i>Kayla Johnson</i>	After graduating from Urbana High School, Kayla will be attending Parkland College to study Early Childhood.
<i>Addison McClure</i>	After graduating from Uni High, Addison will be the University of Tennessee Knoxville, and majoring in Anthropology.
<i>Joel Powers-Ege</i>	After graduating from Champaign Central High School, Joel will be attending Judson University in Elgin, IL, where he will also play baseball.
<i>Dagon Smith</i>	After graduating from Cumberland County High School, Toledo, IL, Dagon will be attending Lake Land College to study Business Marketing.



Congratulations to the CUCC College/Grad School Graduates

<i>Liam Gardner</i>	Liam Gardner is graduating with a BA in History from Eastern Illinois University. He looks forward to finalizing his future plans.
<i>Sonja Gurbani</i>	Sonja is a Jubilee Café volunteer. After graduating from UIUC with a Bachelor of Science degree in Bioengineering, Sonja plans to take a gap year before pursuing medical school.
<i>Jiayi Hurg</i>	Jiayi is a Jubilee Café volunteer who graduated from UIUC in 2020 with a BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology. She will be starting medical start at the Rosalind Franklin Chicago Medical School this fall.
<i>Reno Jamison</i>	Reno is graduating with a Masters Degree in Public Affairs from IUPUI and will be Commissioned as an Officer in the Army through ROTC.
<i>Alanna Kaminsky</i>	Alanna is a Jubilee Café volunteer. After graduating from the UIUC with a Bachelors of Science in Human Nutrition, Alanna looks forward to finalizing her future plans.
<i>Stephanie McKeegan</i>	After graduating from the UIUC with a Masters of Library and Information Science degree, Stephanie plans to stay in Champaign-Urbana while seeking employment.
<i>Emma Mize</i>	Emma is a CUCC soloist. After graduating from the UIUC with a Bachelor of Musical Arts in Lyric Theatre, Emma will be attending Oklahoma City University on a full tuition scholarship for a Masters in Opera.
<i>Paul O'Neil</i>	After graduating from the UIUC with a Bachelors of Science degree in Molecular Cell Biology with certification in Neuroscience, Paul is staying local to get certifications at Carle.
<i>Ronak Parmar</i>	Ronak is a Jubilee Café volunteer. After graduating from the UIUC School of Molecular Biology with a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology, Ronak will be attending medical school at Lincoln Memorial University.
<i>Brian Pattison</i>	After graduating from the UIUC with a Master of Music and Jazz Performance, Brian is off to Ohio to become famous.
<i>Anna Schafer</i>	After graduating from the UIUC with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering, Anna is staying in town and working at Clark Dietz.
<i>Mara Smith</i>	After graduating from the UIUC with a Bachelor of Science in Media and Cinema Studies with a focus on directing and film production, Mara is looking forward to continuing to make this world a better place for all.
<i>Laura Wadleigh</i>	Congratulations to Dr. Laura Wadleigh (PhD, Physics), who successfully defended her dissertation, titled "Relaxation of Interacting Stark-Localized States in a Thermal Lattice Bose Gas," on April 24th. Laura and her partner Matt Adams are moving to Boulder, Colorado, where Laura will be on the cutting edge of quantum computing, working for Atom Computing, Inc.

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, for more information. ~Johnell Bentz

Jubilee Café Needs Volunteers Every Monday

Jubilee Cafe returned 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

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

Date	Hot Meals & Heat at Home
4/3/2023	108
4/10/2023	101
4/17/2023	96
4/24/2023	101
Meals Served	406

Jubilee Café Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Summer is coming and many students will be leaving campus, however, our hungry guests continue coming to Jubilee Café for dinner. This means there will be many opportunities to serve at Jubilee Café during the summer months. Jubilee Café invites you to consider the many opportunities available to serve those who look to Jubilee Café for a homecooked meal on Monday evenings and to sign-up for one of the open positions by scanning the QR Code or accessing the Sign-Up Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/mry8wbum>



April 10, 2023 -- "I walked in the building and it smelled so good, like home. I thought, 'How did they get my mom in the kitchen?'" That's what Sonja, one of tonight's student volunteers, said about dinner. To her, home smells like ginger and garlic and onion and Garam Masala all simmering away. Her parents are from India. Dinner was lentil curry and naan, all housemade, all from scratch. We served 101 meals tonight and the best compliment we could ever get in the Jubilee Cafe CUCC kitchen is that our food smells like something their mom would make....or better. That's home. That's belonging. That's love made real.

For dessert, guests had their choice of chocolate cake, cheesecake, or carrot cake. We had some special drinks to offer, an extension of yesterday's Easter breakfast, which included a choice of apple juice, orange juice, or milk. Milk is very popular and we don't get to serve it often. What a treat.

Some of our student volunteers are celebrating Ramadan and while they served the food they won't be eating any of it until they break their fast. What a gift to serve food and be in community alongside people of all faiths and no faith. That's the kind of thing Jesus would really love.

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



[Back to Top](#)

Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!

Monday, May 1 – Wednesday, May 31



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

Sunday, May 7, 10:15am: Milestone Sunday

Sunday, May 7, 11:30am - 3:15pm: Youth OWL Closing Session

Monday, May 8: Deadline to contact Pastor Connie to participate in "Stroll for your Soul."

Saturday, May 13: Stroll for your Soul begins.

Tuesday, May 16, 11:30am: CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Gathering at Sweet Basil Café in Champaign.

Tuesday, May 16, 6:30pm: CUCC Church Life Board Meeting

Sunday, May 21, 1:00-5:00pm: Adult OWL Retreat

Monday, May 22, 9:00am: Articles due for June eCommunigram

Friday, May 26, TBD: Individuals Together Game Night at Riggs

Monday, May 29, 9:00am-3:00pm: Office Closed Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, May 30, 6:30pm: Young Adult Potluck Picnic, place TBD

Thursday, June 1, 9:00am-3:00pm: Office Closed Office Manager Away

Be sure to check the CUCC Facebook page for updates.



[Back to Top](#)

Mission Ministry

Gratitude for Lent Mission Project

As you can see from the picture of the corn stalk, from Sunday, April 30, we were able to raise more than the \$6,000 we had set as our goal for our Lenten Mission Project. The final total, when the project closes, will be evenly split between Sola Gratia farm and our own Jubilee Cafe. Thank you for being the church, Community! You've helped to put hope into action for the greater community.



Upcoming Strengthen the Church Offering



It's that time of year again, time for a Strengthen the Church offering! We will begin collecting on May 28, and continue collecting on June 4 and June 11. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

As we get closer to the collection dates, we will share even more about this offering and its impact.

One Day Summer Mission Opportunities

We will soon have more to share about a mission opportunity this summer. The outcome of our survey overwhelmingly voted for a local, one-day service project, versus anything that required multiple days or travel. More information to come!



Your Mission Ministry Team Leaders,
Kristy Brownfield and Jeanne Ward



Men's Breakfast

The Men of CUCC meet the first Thursday of each month for breakfast. Join us at 7:00am on **May 4** 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

CUCC Retired "Cool Kids" Monthly Lunch Group

Twenty-one retirees & family joined us at the Retiree Lunch on Tuesday, April 18th at Casa Del Mar. We celebrated birthdays of Patty Gropp and Pat McQuillen (95 years young), with lots of laughs, singing and delicious food.



From left: Marilou Hinrichs, Vicky Robertson (Pat's daughter), Pat McQuillen, Jackie (Pat's daughter standing behind Pat), Sue & John Osborne, Jim Kew, Chase Skye, Kent Henkel, Bea Betzner, Roger & Peg Wade, Jan Hiland, Stephen Kolderup, Ken Gilbert, Linda Vaughn, Ruth Gilbert, Luke Gilbert, Jeanne Ward, John (Patty's brother) and Patty

Our next retiree's lunch will be **Tuesday, May 16th**, 11:30 a.m. at Sweet Basil Café in Champaign.
- Roger & Peg

Individuals Together

Individuals Together gathered in the CUCC parlor in April for a game and movie night. Five of us enjoyed Trivial Pursuit, the 1981 version. We decided it was REALLY hard to remember what was going on in the world back then, so we may try another version at some point!

After some sandwiches and snacks, we watched the movie "Slumdog Millionaire". So good to be with church friends in the comfy church parlor. Come and join us at our next gathering. In May, we plan to have another game night at Riggs Beer Company on **Friday, May 26**. Details to follow soon.



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

[Back to Top](#)

Worship Ministry



Liturgy is defined as the work of the people, the community gathered for worship. This is one of the reasons Liturgists, Greeters, Ushers, the Choir, and others participate in the leadership of worship. Worship is not just the pastor's role. Many voices add richness to the worship experience for all.

To simplify volunteering for opportunities to serve in worship at CUCC, the Sign-up Genius for Liturgists, Ushers, and Greeters has been updated into one sign up sheet. Sign up where all three worship assistant tasks are listed for each worship service through June.

The paper sign-up sheets have also been consolidated into a single sign-up sheet requiring a simple check mark in the appropriate task box to indicate which task you are volunteering for (liturgist, usher, greeter) for that day. We hope this will make it easier to volunteer to serve in worship at CUCC.



Liturgist: 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.

Usher: The usher welcomes folks into the sanctuary and hands them a bulletin for the service. They also pass the offering plate at offering time, count and record the physical number of people attending the worship service. Directions are provided in a weekly email.



Greeters: Welcome folks to Community United Church of Christ, especially visitors, and help them find their way around the building to the restrooms, the fellowship hour, and the sanctuary. Greeters make all people coming to CUCC feel welcomed. Reminders of service are provided in a weekly email.

To sign-up online, scan the QR Code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/cuccgul>



A paper copy of the sign-up sheet can also be found in the Parlor.

[Back to Top](#)

OWL Schedule 6th-10th grade, 2022-23



Date/Time/Location	Chapters
May 7, 11:30-3:15 (lunch until noon)	25: Self-care, Celebration, and Closure

[Back to Top](#)

Sola Gratia Spring Plant Sale

Sola Gratia Farm, a Jubilee Café partner, located at 2200 S. Philo Road, Urbana, Il is having their annual spring plant sale just in time for spring garden planting and Mother's Day! Farm grown vegetables, herbs, fruit, and perennial transplants along with locally sourced flowers from Country Arbors: including hanging baskets, potted plants, bedding plants, perennials, and succulents. May 12th-21st, 9a-5p daily. Cash, credit, and Link Coupons accepted!



St. Matthew Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School

St. Matthew Lutheran Church cordially invites all young people ages 4 years old - 5th grade to attend Vacation Bible School, Tuesday, May 30 - Thursday June 1. The program begins at 5:30pm and ends at 7:30pm and includes dinner.

We will get dirty!

We will have fun!

We will make a difference in God's world!

The theme is based on the parable of the sower and the themes for the three days are:

1. Planting seeds
2. Nurturing/weeding
3. Harvesting, sharing and celebrating!



We will have music, arts and crafts, projects, play time, games and stories! We will have some real experience at Sola Gratia farm! Watch the St. Matthew Facebook Page ([11 Saint Matthew Lutheran Church--Urbana Illinois | Facebook](#)) and website ([Home - Saint Matthew Lutheran Church \(stmatthewurbana.org\)](http://stmatthewurbana.org)) for registration forms.

Volunteer Opportunities at CUCC

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up
Worship Team	Technical Help	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	
Worship Team	Liturgist	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-worship
Worship Team	Usher	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-worship
Worship Team	Greeter	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-worship
Prayer Team	Team Member	Office Manager	Info@community-ucc.org	
Children's Ministry	Event Planner/Leader	Brin Schuler	mailto: ringwen4@gmail.com	
Jubilee Café	Meal Prep, Cook, Clean-up	Johnell Bentz	johnell.bentz@gmail.com	https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer



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)
Daytime Meeting	Any	Anytime	815 146 054	697698	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/815146054?pwd=UmMwdW01ZFhmV0hpZmxrRWNIUmhwdz09	+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=SkjXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09	+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)
Choir	Wed	7:00PM	326 389 912	854849	https://zoom.us/j/326389912?pwd=ZExZVWZqRkI4dFRvZEgrckVmQkY2Zz09	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



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