



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

## e-Communigram

Volume 62, Issue 8 – August 1 - 31, 2023

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

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### Letters from Leah

There's a pinch place on my car. Like many vehicles, once the minivan gets up to 25 miles per hour, all the doors lock automatically, and while I'm grateful for the safety feature, these days, when the weather is nice and the windows are rolled down, with my arm propped on the top on the window ledge, when that lock pops downward without notice, my skin is pinched. It hurts! The first time it happened, I let out a yelp and was left with a bruise. You'd think I would've remembered the next time, but I'm just so used to getting in the car, rolling down the window, and resting my arm there that I got pinched again.

I have some options to avoid the auto lock pinch. I could not roll down the window, or if I did, refrain from putting my arm there. That would mean either dealing with the heat, or turning on the A/C. I could roll down the window, air out the car a bit, then roll them up and hit the road. I can place my arm elsewhere easily enough; I just have to remember to do it. When I go, I could choose to drive more slowly and not more than 24 miles per hour so the car would never auto lock. That choice would defeat the purpose of the safety feature, but perhaps with going slowly, it would be ok. There are lots of options and combinations. There are probably solutions I haven't thought about.

We're in a pinch place here at CUCC. And before I begin to unpack the metaphor for you, let me just say this: we will get through this pinch place. CUCC is a spiritually grounded community that's vibrant and compassionate. We have a purpose and know what it is. This pinch place isn't the squeeze that will lead to a death grip. This is a pinch place that we're going to address and move through. The pinch place has to do with people. During the pandemic, we had people move and move on. Some people's priorities changed while others faced illness that's left them changed. And, sadly, we had several congregants die. All those factors have led to a pinch place in terms of people. We have a few areas of ministry where we're in a pinch with not enough people to make what we have always done work. Perhaps summer has made the pinch place feel bigger than it really is.

If we lived in a smaller town, or in a place with few new residents, I would be worried. But we don't live in a place like that. We live in a place that is infused with new people every summer and fall, and not just students – new people move here to begin careers and look for ways to connect with folks who will become community for them. We've already had an influx of new folks in worship this summer. In fact, we're making plans for a Newcomers group this fall.

Like the example of the pinch place that snags my arm if I'm not careful, as a church, we have some choices to make about how we're going to move forward. For starters, your Church Life Board has decided to make Rally Day different this year. Instead of a Rally Day that focuses solely on Sunday School, we're planning a Rally Day that is a kick-off to the program year with lots of different tables featuring opportunities for you to connect with fellowship groups or indicate your willingness to serve. This Sunday starts a new worship series: Following Christ in a Cruel World. We'll have a rock painting station among the Rally the Church tables. So, mark your calendars for August 27 – Rally the Church Day and our next Pack a Pew Sunday. August 27 is the first Sunday the choir is officially back and the first Sunday after classes begin. It's the day when Campus Ministry students who have been away for the summer will be back in church and the first Sunday when new students may wander in our doors. Let's have a full sanctuary ready to welcome them! August's Pack a Pew is sponsored by Health and Wellness who will have delicious snacks to share.

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Prior to Rally the Church Day, be thinking of how you might plug in and help us get through this pinch place. Think especially of opportunities to serve our young people. We are looking for teams of people to teach our youngest ones, youth Sunday School, and lead youth group activities. This is especially important as the search process continues.

In addition to Rally the Church Day, here's what you have to look forward to in August:

**August 6** – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Ordinary 18, Year A

- Worship theme -- Jacob and the Angel: What you Wrestle, Genesis 32:22-31

**August 13** – Worship in the Park and Blessing of the Backpacks

- Worship theme -- Joseph and his brothers: When you Judge, Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

**August 20** – Quad Day

- Worship theme – A Family's Restoration: What feeds you, Genesis 45: 1-15

**August 27** – Pack a Pew Sunday and Rally the Church

NEW worship series begins: Following Christ in a Cruel World

- Worship theme – Upon \*this\* Rock? Matthew 16:13-20

Blessings,



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



## Our Whole Lives Report

All summer long, middle-aged adults have met on Monday evenings for OWL classes. The sustained attendance over the whole summer tells you that this has been a worthwhile experience for everyone. We hope to bring you some reflections in the September Communigram from participants.

Looking forward to Fall, we have interest in Older Adult OWL for anyone 50 and older. Older Adult OWL is comprised of fourteen two-hour workshops. *Johnalene and Pastor Leah would like to know how you would structure the schedule. A workshop every few weeks? An afternoon immersion every month featuring two workshops. Kick off and closing retreat days sandwiching individual or double workshops?*

Older Adult OWL is a holistic sexuality education program for older adults that models and fosters caring, compassion, respect, and justice. It balances knowledge-building with exploration of attitudes, values, and feelings about one's own and others' sexuality. This program is comprehensive and progressive, addressing sexuality with candor, sensitivity, and respect for older adults' wisdom and life experience. In an inclusive and developmentally appropriate manner, the Our Whole Lives curriculum series addresses sensitive topics that are typically excluded from sexuality education. The underlying values of the program reflect the justice-oriented tradition of our United Church of Christ.

Our Whole Lives, Older Adults addresses Sexuality and Values; Attitudes about Aging; Examining Sexual Scripts; The Sexual Body; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; Intimacy; Sexual Consent and Boundaries; Family Matters; Sexuality and Loss; Reframing Sexuality, Disability, and Chronic Illness; Body Image; Dating as an Older Adult; Safer Sex; and Sex Play Beyond Basics. Workshops include alternate activities and multi-media resources to accommodate participants' specific needs and interests. The curriculum encourages multigenerational communication with family members or others who play a significant role in the participants' lives.

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## News from the Hospitality Team



**Worship in the Park is Sunday, August 13** – Plan on joining us for worship in the park at Blair Park, Rourke Shelter, on Sunday, August 13 and staying for the cookout and potluck sponsored by The Hospitality Team following worship. The Hospitality Team will provide hot dogs (including vegetarian dogs) and brats, condiments, buns, plates, cups, plastic silverware, chips, and water. You are invited to bring a side dish to share and if you wish a beverage of your choice. If you are bringing a dish that needs to stay cold we'd suggest bringing it in a cooler of your own or reaching out to Rocio Arroyave-Jamison or Dennis Jamison @ [dr.jamison13@gmail.com](mailto:dr.jamison13@gmail.com) to see if they can help accommodate your

dish during the service. We encourage you to bring your lawn chairs and extras to share if you have them, blankets, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

- **Note** worship in the park is moving to a *new location!* We will be worshipping at **Blair Park, Rourke Shelter House** which is surrounded by E Pennsylvania, S Vine, E Florida, and S Broadway
- Rourke Shelter House is easily accessed from S Broadway.
- *Please note with all the **bad Air Quality Days** we have experienced this year due to the Canadian Wildfires; the backup plan is to have worship at CUCC Sunday, August 13 if the Air Quality is bad (in the red zone).* Remain weather aware by checking the air quality at [www.airnow.gov/aqi](http://www.airnow.gov/aqi) and entering your zip code in the box in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.
- Sunday, August 13 is the annual **Backpack Blessing**. Bring your backpack to worship that day and have it blessed for the year ahead.



**August 20** – This is Hot Dog Giveaway Day in our CUCC parking lot for students during the annual Quad Day. We need LOTS of volunteers to help with this event and to welcome students to campus. Watch for a sign-up sheet with various jobs, and time slots available for you to sign up to help to be available soon or you can always email Rocio Arroyave-Jamison or Dennis Jamison @ <mailto:dr.jamison13@gmail.com> to volunteer.

Save the dates and watch for additional information about upcoming events planned by the Hospitality Team including:

**Sunday, September 17** -- A Scavenger Hunt at 12 noon

**Sunday, September 24** -- The Annual Sydney Dairy Barn Trip at 2:30pm

**Friday, October 13** -- Freaky Friday TBA

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## Search Committee Update



The Search Committee has received applications from several candidates, we have prepared and fine-tuned our interview process, and we will schedule interviews in early August. We are keeping applications open for now, so please continue to share the position with anyone who might have interested candidates in their circle of acquaintances. This link will take those interested in more information to the UCC job opportunity webpage where they can find more details about the Director of Campus and Youth Ministry at CUCC.

<https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastsearch.aspx>

### SEARCH COMMITTEE PROCESS DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS & YOUTH MINISTRY COMMUNITY UCC & UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY

#### WHAT PROGRESS ARE WE MAKING IN THE TRANSITION TO A NEW DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS & YOUTH MINISTRY?

**(Green means completed, Yellow means in progress, No Highlight means not started)**

##### PREPARING FOR THE SEARCH

- ✓ UCC Campus Ministry (UCCCM) Executive Committee meets with external Consultant to discuss options to structure the vacant Campus Minister position.
- ✓ UCCCM Executive Committee recommends and UCCCM Board approves a discussion with Community UCC to create a shared staff position that is 75% campus ministry and 25% youth ministry.
- ✓ CUCC Church Life Board approves proposal for shared position.
- ✓ Scope of Work that identifies who the organizations are, what our hope is in creating the new shared position and the position's essential functions and core competencies is created and approved by UCCCM Board and CUCC congregation.
- ✓ Search Committee of 4 people from CUCC and 4 people from UCCCM is formed and commissioned.

##### DISCERNING THROUGH THE SEARCH

- ✓ The Search Committee meets with resource person, Stephen Kolderup, to get organized and begin a Spirit-filled search.
- ✓ The Illinois Conference posts our open position on the UCC Ministry Opportunities website.
- The Search Committee promotes the open position widely through Facebook/Instagram (Church & Campus Ministry), personal emails, local clergy alliances, Chambana Proud, LGBTQ national job boards, etc.
- The Search Committee writes the Position Description that is approved by the UCCCM Executive Committee and CUCC Personnel Committee & Church Life Board.
- The CUCC Personnel Committee in consultation with the UCCCM Board creates an orientation process.
- The Search Committee asks all candidates to submit a cover letter, resume, 3 references and answers to 5 supplemental questions.
- The Search Committee considers the candidate's materials by first completing the Feedback Form individually and then decides together by consensus if candidates will continue in the process or be thanked and removed from consideration.
- The Search Committee holds online interviews to further narrow the candidate pool. Each candidate will be asked to lead the Search Committee in a brief worship service before engaging in a time of mutual questions and answers.
- If needed, the Search Committee schedules a second online interview with final candidates and/or invites them to Champaign for an in-person interview and tour of Champaign.
- The search committee identifies the final candidate by consensus.
- The CUCC Personnel Committee in consultation with the UCCCM Executive Committee negotiates a compensation package with the candidate.

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## COMPLETING THE SEARCH

- At a joint meeting of the UCCCM Board and CUCC's Church Life Board, the candidate is introduced and recommended. After prayerfully considering the candidate, the two Boards vote separately to affirm the candidate. If either Board says "no", the Search will continue.
- If the vote is affirmative, an employment/call agreement is signed.
- The search committee introduces the new Director of Campus & Youth Ministry to CUCC's congregation and Campus Ministry students and alumni.
- The candidate begins working in the position.
- A welcome to the new staff person and celebration of the renewed partnership between CUCC and UCCCM Board is planned and held.

## From the United Church of Christ

**PREPARING for the Search**

- Our governing body seeks out resources from the conference for a fruitful transition.
- With conference support, our governing body identifies transitional pastoral leadership.
- We prepare a local church profile together, asking:
  - Who are we?
  - Who is our neighbor?
  - Who is God calling us to become?
- We form and commission a search committee.

**DISCERNING through the Search**

- The search committee meets with the conference to begin a Spirit-led search.
- The conference posts our open position on UCC Ministry Opportunities.
- The search committee considers ministerial profiles received from the conference.
- The search committee holds interviews to narrow the candidate pool.
- The search committee identifies a final candidate.
- Our governing body negotiates a compensation package with the candidate.

**COMPLETING the Search**

- The search committee introduces the final candidate to us.
- We meet the candidate and worship together, listening for the Spirit among us.
- We vote on whether to call the candidate to share in who we are, who our neighbor is, and who God is calling us to become.
- If the vote is affirmative, a call agreement is signed.
- We relocate (if needed) our new pastor and welcome this new season of our ministry.
- With our association and our new pastor, we sign a covenant and plan an installation.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS: The CONFERENCE supports the congregational search with financial resources and a shared pool of ministerial profiles. The ASSOCIATION within the United Church of Christ provides additional administrative and oversight, as reflected in the individual panels. The search committee holds the responsibility for making names and details of candidates to CONFIDENTIAL during its discernment. More information: [UCC.org/ministry\\_search](http://UCC.org/ministry_search) call.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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## Children and Family Ministry

Fall is quickly approaching, and we are planning for the start of Sunday School and childcare at church. Sunday School class happens most Sundays during worship and is intended for kids PreK-5th grade. If you have kiddos under the age of 4, we provide childcare. It will help us plan for hiring childcare workers and finding lead teachers and shepherds for Sunday School if we know how many kids of each age group will be coming on a regular basis this year. Please submit this form by 8/20.

<https://forms.gle/N6csZ8ygyoEJAv9p8>



## Notes from your Music Director



**Summer Music:** Thank you so much to the singers who took a chance and shared their musical gifts during worship this summer. We were blessed to have a diverse and talented group of folks enhance summer services!

### Choir resumes!

CUCC choir will resume singing during worship on August 27, with Wednesday rehearsals beginning August 30. Our choir works hard to be accessible to all, and I would like to encourage anyone considering singing with us to reach out to me now so I can add you to our choir email list. I will be communicating with our current singers soon about upcoming music opportunities.

**Chime Opportunity:** I'm also 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: <https://forms.gle/1jgbj4U83hmHzDFA8>



Please contact me with questions or ideas: [music@community-ucc.org](mailto:music@community-ucc.org).

Kathy Lee

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## Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry has been going strong this summer with weekly dinners at Jubilee Cafe and the McKinley Foundation, our outstanding summer kickball league, and some extra hang outs including movie nights and going to see the Barbie movie on Saturday, July 22.

The students have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming school year and have a weekly and monthly schedule set as well as some special events planned for the Fall 2023 semester. The fall semester starts August 21st, following Quad Day on August 20th. CUCC Campus Ministry will be hosting a trivia contest following Jubilee Cafe on August 21st, as our first large event. We are asking CUCCers to donate prizes for this as an incentive to get new students to join us. Other large events offered by our partners in Inclusive Campus Ministry include an event hosted by St. Andrew's Lutheran on August 30th, and a movie night hosted by McKinley Presbyterian on September 1st.

With the school year starting again, we are also looking to start up Sunday lunches hosted by members of the congregation. CUCC is responsible for the 3rd Sunday of every month and the Campus Ministry is looking for families to host us for these lunches. Sign-ups will be available soon. Third Sundays are limited in fall semester, get your spot before it's too late!

Campus Ministry will also be going on their bi-annual retreat to Tower Hill Camp in the Michigan Dunes the weekend of October 6-8th. This will be a nice time for them to build more meaningful connections with each other and get away from the stress of school.

Contact Amanda Dobson, Campus Ministry Student with questions about these upcoming activities.



## Summer Kickball

The Summer Kickball Season will be wrapping up in the next couple of weeks. Though our team may not have won many games this season, we have grown as players and as a team. We have had many players compete and many fans to cheer us on (thank you CUCC!). Sam Tillman has been a very consistent pitcher this season, even striking a couple of people out. Shane Brownfield is our all-star fieldsman as he continuously caught fly balls and tagged many opposing players out. Vlad Bivziuk came to every game and killed it as catcher as well as making the other team's pitchers sweat with his killer eye for ball pitches. Harrison Price made a matrix-style diving catch at our most recent game. Stephanie Tillman, Anna Schafer, and Sabrina Lee were incredible kickers and made some amazing plays in the field. Sarah and Emma Winnicki-



Smith were both

double-threats by contributing amazing plays in the field and kicking the ball into oblivion. Beatrice Ebel, Kathy Lee, Henry Wang, and Jan Himes may have only joined us at the end of our season, but they were an amazing addition to our team. Dennis Jamison and Lance Larkin thankfully helped fill out our field when they were needed and crushed it. Abby Beck, Joel Caldero, Paula Hancock, and Veren were great additions to our team when they were able to join us. The best part of each game was getting to cheer each other and the other teams on. Thanks to everyone who participated and came out to support us!!



## Ground Maintenance and Mowing



Spring has long gone, and summer is quickly passing too, however, there are still opportunities available for mowing and ground maintenance (pick up trash) weekly at the church. Please scan the QR Code or go to the Sign-Up Genius <https://tinyurl.com/yy6wh2ji>. If you are willing to help. The dates listed are Saturdays, but you could mow and pick up trash 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.



## Raise Right



### Raise Right Tip #5: Take Advantage of Bonuses

On any given day, Raise Right has a list of businesses that are offering a "bonus" percentage return to the church. So, for example, on one recent day businesses like Sonic, Red Robin, Arby's, and Panera all returned 12% to the church rather than their usual 8%. When there is a "bonus" offered, it is a good time to stock up on gift cards and refill any physical cards because more of your purchase comes back to the church. Make it a habit to check for bonuses periodically in the Raise Right app.



For help with sign up or questions, contact Jen Robbennolt ([jennifer.robbennolt@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.robbennolt@gmail.com)).

All the previous Raise Right Tips have been collected into one document. To review previous Raise Right



RaiseRightTips.pdf

Tips, click on the PDF at right.

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## CU Pride Fest Fair and Parade Save the Date

This year's **CU Pride Fest** will be on **Saturday, September 30, 2023**.

Again, this year, CUCC will be well represented! We will march in the parade and hand out **rainbow hearts**. The Identity Team (Keri Evans and Ramona Oswald, co-chairs) invites you to take several sheets of rainbow hearts home to cut out (on the table at the back of the Sanctuary). Please return the cut-out hearts to the church office by September 26<sup>th</sup>. We will also have a CUCC fair booth with our popular **Prayer Door**.

For the **parade**, we will need:

- A volunteer with a pickup truck to drive in the parade.
- Volunteers to march in parade, as they are able, or ride in the truck (limited space).

For CUCC's fair **booth**, we will need:

- Volunteers to help pick-up supplies from CUCC, deliver items to the festival, and help set-up the booth.
- Volunteers to staff the booth throughout the day.
- Volunteers to tear-down booth, load supplies from the festival, and return everything to CUCC.

Please watch for more details (festival maps, parade position, and booth location, etc.), as we receive them from Uniting Pride. A CUCC Volunteer Sign-up Genius will go live later in August and links will be provided in the weekly announcements/emails. You can contact Keri Evans at [kevans1984@yahoo.com](mailto:kevans1984@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Thank you in advance for volunteering and supporting CU Pride Fest 2023.



## Jubilee Café Seeking Donations of Travel Size Toiletries

Thank you to everyone who donated travel size toiletries to Jubilee Cafe. In the last few months our volunteers have used these items to create hygiene kits for our guests. We still have some supplies remaining, but we need a few more items to make complete kits for our guests. Thank you, Jubilee Café

Items needed include:

- Travel size shampoo/conditioner
- Travel size toothpaste
- Travel size deodorant
- New wash cloths
- Tampons

Items can be left in the office Monday-Thursday 9-3 pm

Or mail to

Community UCC, Attention: Jubilee Cafe

805 S 6th St

Champaign IL 61820



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## Care Team Ministry

Can You Help?

If you're someone who cares about your fellow parishioners and are willing to share your time and talents with them (and who here isn't?), then the Care Team could use your help.



\* One of our parishioners needs rides to and from church on Sunday mornings. She lives at Windsor of Savoy (between Champaign and Savoy) and all but one of our current **Drivers' Ministry** volunteers is from Urbana. We are hoping to recruit a few more drivers who live in Champaign and Savoy to supplement our current drivers. Contact Marilou Hinrichs (217-637-6107, [mhmail@comcast.net](mailto:mhmail@comcast.net)) to become a driver for the Drivers' Ministry or to specifically sign up to give some of these Sunday morning rides.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



\* **Prayer shawls** are given out for comfort, support, and celebration to those in our church community who are experiencing a serious illness, leaving our community, or graduating from high school and college (as well as other reasons). If you're someone who likes to knit, sew, or crochet and would be willing to make prayer shawls, contact Elena Kasper ([eakasper@gmail.com](mailto:eakasper@gmail.com)) for instructions on how to make a prayer shawl, submit your finished shawls, or donate prayer shawl-making materials.

\* Perhaps you're a person who likes to cook. Jennifer Robbennolt ([jrobbenn@illinois.edu](mailto:jrobbenn@illinois.edu)) coordinates our Meals Ministry and sets up the "**Meal Train**" schedules for our members and friends temporarily in need of meals (after surgery, a new baby, etc.). Contact Jennifer to find out more or to be added to the "Meal Train" contact list.



\* Our **Card Ministry** is coordinated by Peg Wade ([peg.wade@comcast.net](mailto:peg.wade@comcast.net)). If you are interested in helping to keep our CUCC connections strong through this ministry or would like to donate cards or postage to this ministry, contact Peg.

\* Our **Visitor and Healing Music Ministries** focus on connections with CUCC members and friends who are living in institutional settings or are unable to come to church. If you're someone who enjoys personal contact with others through visits, conversation, sharing music, or reading aloud, contact Marilou Hinrichs ([mhmail@comcast.net](mailto:mhmail@comcast.net)) to see how you might help with our Visitor and Healing Music Ministries.



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## Newcomers Group

Are you relatively new to Community United Church of Christ? Or maybe you've been attending for a while but would like to learn more about how the church works and what our values and beliefs are based on. Maybe you are even thinking you might like to become an official member! If any of these things are true, then the upcoming CUCC Newcomer Group may be for you.

The next Newcomer Group will be starting in *mid-October and running through mid-November*. Watch future eCommunigrams and weekly emails and Announcement Sheets for exact dates and times. Read on to find out more about what is included, and then if you are interested, please send me your contact information so that I can be sure to keep you in the loop. Email me, Jeanne Ward, at [jeawa@comcast.com](mailto:jeawa@comcast.com) or call/text me at [217-840-0668](tel:217-840-0668)

**Session 1 - CUCC 101, UCC 101** – After a short “meet and greet” this meeting will be an opportunity to find out more about how the UCC is organized, what our core beliefs are, and something of our history. We will also look at the basic structure of our local church, CUCC, and answer questions you may have about the church. If you just want to find out about the church, you may **only** want to attend this meeting. If you would like to pursue getting more involved, or becoming a member of the church, then sessions 2, 3, and 4 are for you.



**Session 2 - Opportunities to Plug-In at CUCC** - Leaders from our Ministry Teams will come to this meeting to talk to you about their roles here at CUCC and opportunities for participation in the life and ministry of CUCC.

**Session 3 - How do Your Gifts and Talents Mesh with CUCC?** - Partners in Faith who are members of the church will be invited to this meeting to meet each of you and begin connecting with you. We will look at the spiritual gifts each of us brings to CUCC and talk about the values we have as individuals and as a community. We'll begin to look at ways to get connected to the church and its work.

**Session 4 - Committing to CUCC** - Partners in Faith who have been paired with you will again attend this meeting. We will share faith stories, discuss what a commitment to the church means and answer your questions about membership. For those who have decided to join the church, plans will be made for a New Member Sunday.

We are anxious to get to know more about you and to share our stories with each other! Looking forward to seeing you soon!  
Jeanne Ward - Welcoming Committee, [jeawa@comcast.com](mailto:jeawa@comcast.com), [217-840-0668](tel:217-840-0668)



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## News from the John Bandy Center

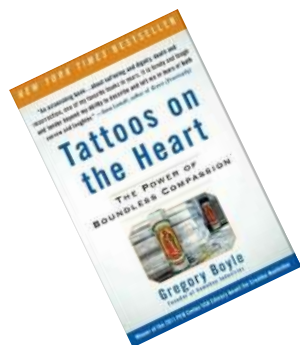
This month, the John Bandy Center for Spirituality and Faith highlights **Building Relationships and Community**. Our bookshelf in the parlor features books about community, relationships, and the qualities that help build those. Please take time to browse during our fellowship time on Sundays! To check out a book, just write your name on the card in the book and then place the card in the plastic box on the table in the library. We suggest that materials circulate for three weeks-- please return them when you're done so others can use them, too!



Here are some of the books you can find on this month's topic:

*Small Decencies: Reflections and Meditations on Being Human at Work* by John Cowan

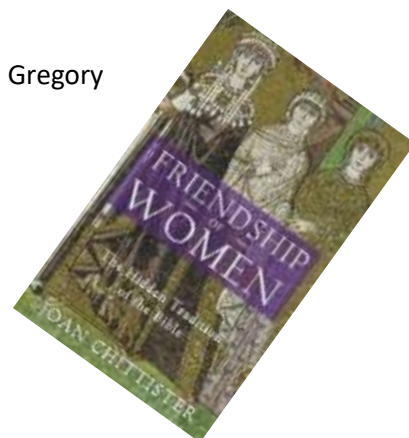
*The Force of Kindness* by Sharon Salzberg



*Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Father Gregory Boyle

*Sacred Dwelling: A Spirituality of Family Life* by Wendy Wright

*Called to Community: The Life Jesus Wants for His People* by Charles Moore (editor)



*The Holy Intimacy of Strangers* by Sarah York

*The Friendship of Women: A Spiritual Tradition* by Joan Chittister

*The Power of Compassion: Stories That Open the Heart, Heal the Soul, and Change the World* by Pamela Bloom (compiler)

*The Hidden Gifts of Helping* by Stephen Post

*The Common Table: Reflections and Meditations on Community and Spirituality in the Workplace* by John Cowan

*Embracing the Beloved: Relationship as a Path of Awakening* by Stephen and Ondrea Levine

*Real Love: The Art of Meaningful Connection* by Sharon Salzberg

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## Jubilee Cafe

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 14 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

Date	Meals Served
7/3/2023	65
7/10/2023	52
7/17/2023	54
7/24/2023	89
7/31/2023	67
<b>Meals Served</b>	<b>327</b>



July 10, 2023 -- Tonight at Jubilee Cafe CUCC we served 52 guests a to die for antipasto pasta studded with salami house made vegetarian pepperoni, olives, artichokes, farm fresh vegetables and house made pesto. All meals were served with a side of salad greens and a pineapple-orange smoothie. Dessert options included lemon meringue layer cake, cheesecake, and two different kinds of Girl Scout cookies.

In this evening's meal, we had Basil, Lettuce, Green onions, and Swiss chard, all of which came from community partners [Sola Gratia Farm](#) and the Idea Garden. We also had plenty of donuts from [Ye Olde Donut Shoppe](#). What a gift.

The room was pretty lively tonight. It's hot outside and our fellowship hall is cool. Guests were chatty and seemed to just relax when they came into the space. I know some of our guests don't get to relax very often; we're glad to provide an oasis for them. It's going to rain later in the week. Please hold in the light of God's love all our guests without a permanent address, that they might have a place to stay dry when the storms come.

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

While things have slowed down this summer, Jubilee Café continues to provide a vital support to many community members, including those with low or no income and our neighbors without a permanent address. People ages **14 and older** are invited to volunteer. Thanks for giving your time and energy to ensure that all people have access to good food and good community. We feed more than hungry bellies at Jubilee Café. You can sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/mry8wbum> or by scanning the QR Code



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## Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!

Tuesday, August 1 - Thursday, August 31



**Thursday, August 3, 7:00am:** Men's Breakfast at Urbana Garden Family Restaurant

**Sunday, August 6, 1:00-5:00pm:** Adult OWL Class

**Friday, August 11, 5:45pm:** Individuals Together meeting at Big Grove Tavern for Friday Night Live

**Sunday, August 13, 10:15am:** Worship in the Park at Blair Park Rourke Shelter, backup plan if bad air quality day is to worship at CUCC with backpack blessing and cookout and potluck following worship.

**Monday, August 14, 1:00pm:** Staff Meeting

**Tuesday, August 15, 11:30am:** CUCC Retiree's Monthly Lunch Gathering at Philo Tavern

**Tuesday, August 15, 6:30pm:** CUCC Church Life Board Meeting

**Thursday, August 17, 7:00pm:** Campus Ministry Board Meeting

**Sunday, August 20, 10:15am:** One Great Hour of Sharing Collection

**Sunday, August 20, 11:30am:** Quad Day Hot Dog Give Away

**Monday, August 21, 7:00pm:** CUCC Campus Ministry Trivia Night

**Tuesday, August 22, 4:30pm:** Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting

**Sunday, August 27, 10:15am:** Traditional Hybrid Worship, August Pack A Pew Sunday, Rally the Church Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing Collection

**Wednesday, August 30, 7:00pm:** Choir Rehearsals Resume

**Wednesday, August 30, 7:00pm:** Campus Ministry at St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center

**Friday, September 1, 7:00pm:** Campus Ministry at McKinley Presbyterian for Movie Night

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

### Save the Date

**Sunday, September 17:** Scavenger Hunt following worship.

**Sunday, September 24:** Annual Trip to Sidney Dairy Barn

**Saturday, September 30:** CUCC Pride Fair and Parade

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## Mission Ministry

We've got several great opportunities to help in the community this fall. We hope you will mark your calendars and prayerfully discern where you can help.

### United Way of Champaign County Looking for Help

Through August 25, we will collect donations of diapers and other supplies for The Bottom-Line Diaper Bank through United Way of Champaign County. They will distribute to those in need through:

- The Baby Fold
- Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department - WIC
- Brightpoint (Formerly Children's Home & Aid)
- Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County
- Crisis Nursery
- C-U Early
- Developmental Services Center of Champaign County
- The Family Room
- Head Start Champaign-Urbana
- Healthy Beginnings & Family Foundations
- Multicultural Community Center



We are collecting any size, brand and quantity of diapers/pull-ups/wipes, but the most needed are newborn, size 5, size 6 and PULL-UPS in 2T-3T and 3T-4T for boys and girls.

### Upcoming UCC offerings



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ that CUCC participates in. This offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development of ministries of the UCC in the wider church ministries. Watch for the opportunity to donate to this special mission on **Sunday, August 20 and Sunday, August 27** or online at [www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org).

Another opportunity to support the United Church of Christ and the wider mission is in October. Around World Communion Sunday, we will collect for Neighbors in Need, which is one of four special offerings of the United Church of Christ. For 2023, the focus of this offering is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we must be better stewards of our planet. As with previous years, one third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations, as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Please keep an eye out for more specifics of this offering coming soon!

-Kristy and Jeanne

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## Men's Breakfast

The Men of CUCC meet the first Thursday of each month for breakfast. Join us at 7:00am on **August 3** for breakfast. We would love to see you at Urbana Family Garden Restaurant. 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



We had 11 of us meet for lunch on Tuesday, July 18th at The Bread Company in Urbana. It was a great group of folks with lots of lively discussion. Our August Lunch will be on **Tuesday, August 15th at the Philo Tavern, 101 Washington Street, Philo**. We plan to meet there at 11:30 a.m., but as always rides and carpooling are available also. Watch for the email coming out in August.



## Individuals Together



Individuals Together were excited to check out the weekly jazz offering on the Patio at Houlihan's on Thursday, July 6. Three of us enjoyed the evening of relaxing music of a 2-piece jazz combo, good food and good conversation. We are ready to go again with whomever wants to go! We ate in air-conditioned comfort inside (we could still hear the music), then later moved outside as tables became available. Houlihan's offers various jazz combos every Thursday evening throughout the summer.

In August, we will be getting together in downtown Champaign for Friday night Live. This weekly event features various groups who offer live music in the downtown area from 6-8 PM. Let's meet on Friday, August 11th at Big Grove Tavern. Some of us plan to come early to reserve a table so come out and join the fun!

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 on our email list, please contact Linda Morgan at 217-649-3778.

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## Young Adult Fellowship Group



The group is using GroupMe for communicating and event planning. If you would like to join the Young Adult Fellowship Group, here is a link and QR Code for the Young Adult Fellowship

GroupMe: <https://rb.gy/cnrhs>



Contact Emma Winniki-Smith at [inkliizii1@gmail.com](mailto:inkliizii1@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## 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 September.

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.



### Volunteer Opportunities at CUCC

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up
Worship Team	Technical Help	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:info@community-ucc.org">info@community-ucc.org</a>	
	Liturgist, Usher, Greeter	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:info@community-ucc.org">info@community-ucc.org</a>	<a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-worship">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-worship</a>
Prayer Team	Team Member	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:Info@community-ucc.org">Info@community-ucc.org</a>	
Children's Ministry	Event Planner/Leader	Brin Schuler	<a href="mailto:ringwen4@gmail.com">mailto: ringwen4@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=SkIXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09">https://zoom.us/j/402056418?pwd=SkIXaFBUMIBZQ0lvNTFUNVhWeVF0QT09</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