



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-Communigram

Volume 64, Issue 9 – September 1 – September 30

Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

Letters from Leah

After a unanimous vote of both the United Church Foundation Board and the Church Life Board of Community United Church of Christ, we are thrilled to introduce you to Izzy Collazo (she/her), our new Director of Campus and Youth Ministries. This is a reintroduction for many of you. Izzy is CUCC's current member in discernment and has been living in Chicago for 10 years.



When asked what are you most excited about returning home to CUCC to work with the congregation? She said, "I am most excited about reconnecting with everyone and having the opportunity to serve a place and people I love in a new way. I'm also really looking forward to getting reacquainted with CU, and excited for the chance to cheer the kickball team on in person!"

Izzy brings great experience to the table, with 10 years of working with young people, teachers, and families in special education in the Chicago Public School system. Izzy completed an internship with Gilead United Church of Christ. She is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity at Chicago Theological Seminary and plans to seek ordination in the United Church of Christ upon completion of her degree.

Izzy lived in Champaign-Urbana and attended Community United Church of Christ while earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education from the University of Illinois.

Izzy will be starting work in mid-September. She was here on Quad Day, Sunday, August 24.

Let's extend our thanks to the search team for their faithfulness and diligence.

Tears of Things Worship Series

Our new worship series based on Richard Rohr's book *The Tears of Things* began in August and continues through September. In this tumultuous time, what a gift Rohr's work is. His invitation to get to know the prophets again and heed their call to reorder our relationships in light of God's love is needed now more than ever.

You can order a copy of Rohr's book from your favorite book seller and pick up a copy of the reading guide in the sanctuary.

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Gathering of the Waters and Bibles for our Young People

It's a tradition of our congregation that CUCCers collect water from their travels during the year so that we might gather those together at the start of the new program year. Those waters are then used for baptisms throughout the year. We will Gather the Waters on **September 14** during worship. We will also present Bibles to our youth and children.

Blessings,



Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser



Notes from your Music Director



It's the most wonderful time of the year, when choir returns to CUCC worship services! Please consider joining choir once or regularly; I can offer learning tracks if sight reading is an obstacle for you. If you plan to sing with us on a Sunday, please make every effort to attend Wednesday's rehearsal. Our schedule is:

- Rehearsal on Wednesdays at 7PM in the basement choir room
- Rehearsal and service Sundays - pick up music in the choir room and be ready to sing in the sanctuary at 9:15 or 9:30 depending on the day.

I am also always looking to involve new folks in our music program including but not limited to those who would like to: play guitar, play percussion, play in a chime choir, sing or play an instrument as a solo / duet, sing with choir.

Please contact me if you're interested: Kathy Lee, 203-605-3830, music@community-ucc.org



CUCC T-shirts:

There were 109 CUCC t-shirts ordered this summer and after sorting them out by design, size, and color for each person's order, recipients started picking them up the 3rd Sunday in July. Watch for the new shirts being worn at upcoming CUCC events!



- 1) colorful sorted t-shirts laid out on a bed before dividing them for each order
- 2) Elizabeth, Ilsa and Patty modeling their new t-shirts at CUCC's Hot Dog Giveaway Day.

Thanks again to Keri Evans, Identity Team Co-Chair, for the awesome shirt designs and color options.

Additional shirt order: If anyone did not get a chance to order a CUCC t-shirt this summer or if you would like to order another t-shirt, we can place

another order, but we need at least 6 of the same design in order to place the order.

The price will be higher than on the first order, due to the quantity discount we had previously.

If you would like to order a t-shirt, please contact Peg Wade at: 217-369-0474 or peg.wade@comcast.net and let me know design, size and color option you would like. When we get at least 6 orders for the same design, we can place an order.

The 2 designs and color options are:

a) *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Are All Christian Values* (heather orange, heather cassis, heather kelly or heather mellow yellow)

b) *Live Justly, Love Abundantly, Walk Humbly* (heather kelly, heather charcoal, heather mellow yellow or turquoise)

Peg Wade, Community Building Team Chair



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Mark your calendars and save the date of **Sunday, September 28**, for CUCC's annual fun event. Watch for complete details coming soon.

Mark Your Calendar!

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world.

The 2025 Crop Walk is **Sunday, October 5**, starting at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 905 S. Russell in Champaign. Contact David Willcox with questions at <mailto:daw30410@yahoo.com>

Champaign Urbana
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 5, 2025

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

Sunday, September 14	9:30-11:30am
Sunday, October 12	9:30am-11:30am
Sunday, November 9	11:30am-1:00pm
Sunday, December 14	9:30am-11:00am
Sunday, January 18, 2026	11:30am-1:00pm
Sunday, February 8	9:30am-11:30am
Sunday, March 8	9:30am-11:30am
Sunday, April 12	9:30am-11:30am
Sunday, April 26	11:30am-1:00pm
Sunday, May 10 Confirmation Sunday	10:15am

Day	Date	Notes	Time
Wednesday	September 10	Parent Orientation	6-8pm
Saturday	September 20	Mini-retreat, dinner included	3:30-10pm
Sunday	October 5	Lunch provided	11:30am-3:15pm
Sunday	October 26	Lunch provided	11:30am-3:15pm
Sunday	November 16	Lunch provided	11:30am-3:15pm
Saturday	December 6	Mini-retreat, dinner included	3:30-10pm
Sunday	January 18, 2026	Lunch provided	11:30am-3:15pm
Sunday	February 1	Lunch provided	11:30am-3:15pm
Sunday	February 22	Lunch provided	11:30am-3:15pm
Sunday	March 15	Lunch provided	11:30am-3:15pm
Saturday	April 4	Mini-retreat, dinner included	3:30-10pm
Sunday	May 17	Lunch provided	11:30am-3:15pm



Young Adult Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Registration and Schedule

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for young adults 18 and out of high school through 30 is being sponsored by UCC Campus Ministry. We will meet one **Friday evening** a month **beginning September 5**. Register by scanning the QR code or going to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kDp_VGeLx6fzZ2yMuNAFelo69Wtapb_bqRsyfJlHVX0/viewform?edit_requested=true

Friday, September 5	5-8:30 pm	1: Young Adults and Sexuality, 2: Mind and Body
Friday, October 3	5:7:30pm	3: Sexual Pleasure
Friday, November 7	5:7:30pm	4: Keeping Your Body Healthy
Friday, December 5	5-8:30pm	5: Exploring Gender, 6: Sexual orientation
Friday, January 23, 2026	5-7:30pm	7: Communication
Friday, February 6	5-8:30pm	8 & 9: Relationship, Love, and Commitment
Friday, March 6	5-7:30pm	10: Boundaries and Boundary Violations
Friday, April 3	5-7:30pm	11: Family Matters
Friday, May 1	5-7:30pm	12: Sexual Fantasy and Variation, 13: Advocacy and Education

Opportunities to Feed the Young Adult OWL Class

Would you be willing to provide a meal for our Young Adult OWL class? The class meets one Friday night per month. Meals must be at CUCC and ready to serve at 5:00pm. Sign up to provide one or more meals at the Sign-up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-58077104-meals> or on the paper sign-up sheet in the Parlor.



Friday, September 5
Friday, October 3
Friday, November 7
Friday, December 5

Friday, January 23, 2026
Friday, February 6, 2026
Friday, March 6, 2026
Friday, May 1, 2026

Newcomers Group

Has met for two sessions and will meet again **on September 21** and **October 19**. The third session will introduce you to people who help keep things running around here, and will help you look at your own spiritual needs and gifts so that you can begin to figure out how to best "plug in" here and become as involved as you'd like to be, and the final session is for those who are ready to pursue membership in the church. The final session is for those who are ready to pursue membership in the church.

Contact Jeanne Ward at jeawa@comcast.net or 217-840-0668 if you have any questions.

CU Pride Fest Fair and Parade

Mark your calendar and save the date for this year's **CU Pride Fest** on **Saturday, October 25, 2025**.

Again, this year, CUCC will be well represented! We will march in the parade and hand out **rainbow hearts**. We will also have a booth at the fair with our popular **Prayer Door**.

Watch upcoming Announcement Sheets and eCommunigrams for more information and how to volunteer to participate in this event.



Raise Right

Buying gift cards from Raise Right helps Community United Church of Christ (CUCC) while saving you time and money. Every card earns money for CUCC.

Raise Right now offers a way to earn 5% for CUCC when dining locally—just link your credit card in the app's "Local Dining" section and pay with it at participating restaurants like Aspen Tap House. To find eligible places, use the "Local Dining" icon and search by city or zip code.

To join Raise Right, visit <https://www.raiseright.com>, click "signup," select "Join" an existing program, and enter CUCC's enrollment code: **279D2C266L1L9**.

If you need help enrolling, call 1-800-727-4715 (option 3) or email Jen Robbennolt at Jennifer.robennolt@gmail.com. Previous Raise Right Tips are attached for reference.

The previous Raise Right Tips have been collected into one document and are attached here for your reference.



RaiseRightTips.pdf

Jubilee Café News

Common Group Coop Members invited to vote for Jubilee Café

Jubilee Café was once again nominated for *Common Ground's Round Up for Good* program and is one of 57 organizations that submitted proposals. All Common Ground Coop Members are invited to vote for Jubilee Café. Invite your families and friends to vote for Jubilee Café too.



Seeking volunteers to pick up veggies from Sola Gratia Farm for Jubilee Cafe



As you may know, Sola Gratia Farm is one of Jubilee Café's partners. Each Monday Sola Gratia Farm provides fresh produce for Jubilee Café to either cook with or share with our guests.

Someone at Sola Gratia usually helps load the cartons of produce into your vehicle. However, the driver must be able to unload the cartons at CUCC by themselves. The driver is invited to come into the building and secure the cart for transporting the cartons of produce from their vehicle to the Fellowship Hall.

There are many opportunities for you to volunteer to pick up the vegetables from Sola Gratia at 10am Monday morning at Sola Gratia's new facility on [E. Mumford Dr.](#) and transport them to CUCC so they are here for the Jubilee Café cooks. Please check your availability and sign-up for one or more Mondays by scanning the QR Code or go to the Sign-Up Genius at <https://rb.gy/uii5j8>



Seeking volunteers to pick up donuts from Ye Olde Donut Shoppe for Jubilee Cafe

As you may know, Ye Old Donut Shoppe, 1401 S. Neil Street, is one of Jubilee Café's partners. Each Monday Ye Olde Donut Shoppe provides donuts for Jubilee Café to share with our guests. There are many opportunities to pick up donuts **Monday afternoons at 12:55pm** (when the shop closes) and bring the donuts to CUCC so they are here for the Jubilee Café volunteers.



If you are interested in helping, please check your calendar then sign-up for one or more Mondays by scanning the QR Code or go to the Sign Up Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/53xajssy>



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Jubilee Cafe

Jubilee Café requires many volunteers to make everything run 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, go to the sign-up link at <https://tinyurl.com/mry8wbum> contact the office info@community-ucc.org for more information.

Date	Meals Served
8/4/2025	91
8/11/2025	81
8/18/2025	84
8/25/2025	109
Meals Served	365



August 11, 2025 -- Tonight at Jubilee Cafe we served 67 meat meals of Pollo Guisado with chicken and 7 with faux chick'n. Guisado is a yummy Puerto Rican stew made of braised chicken, potatoes, carrots, and olives in a tomato-based broth. Both were served with rice and a salad with ranch. We also served 7 heated home meals. For dessert, we had house-made blueberry cobbler or chocolate cake.

Over the past week, Jubilee's coat storage room got a makeover Thanks to Isaac and his Eagle Scout Project.

Isaac's Project Description "My project will work in the southernmost room on the east side of the church basement, which used to be used as a Sunday school room and is now being used for disorganized storage for Jubilee Cafe clothing items (coats, socks, hats, etc.). It will aim to organize the room into shelving and a coat rack that I will build so that it can continue to be used as a storage room while also being available for Sunday school again....After everything is installed, I will organize the existing materials in the room into bins that fit onto all of the shelving space, as well as clean up the room."

Isaac and his crew have us well organized and ready for winter. Now there's a place for everything and even a work table to cut plastic on. Thanks Isaac, Quincy, Andrew, Sachin, and Landon!

- Ann Hart



Upcoming One-Time Events

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!

Monday, September 1 – Tuesday, September 30



Wednesday, September 3, 7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 4, 7:00am: Men's Monthly Breakfast at Maple and Yolk Restaurant, Urbana.

Friday, September 5, 5:00-8:30pm: Young Adult OWL

Sunday, September 7, 10:15am: Traditional Hybrid Worship, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Times, Gathering of the Water

Tuesday, September 9, 8:30am: Just 4 Fun BBREFFAS monthly breakfast gathering at Perkins. RSVP to Rocio.

Wednesday, September 10, 6:00-8:00pm: Youth OWL Parent Orientation

Wednesday, September 10, 7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 14, 9:30-11:30am: Confirmation Class

Sunday, September 14, 10:15am: Traditional Hybrid Worship, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Times

Tuesday, September 16, 11:30am: Cool "Young at Heart" Kids (formerly CUCC Retiree's) monthly lunch outing at Colbert Park Savoy

Tuesday, September 16, 6:30pm: CUCC CLB Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 20, 3:30-10pm: Youth OWL Mini Retreat with dinner provided

Sunday, September 21, 10:15am: Traditional Hybrid Worship, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Times

Sunday, September 21, 11:30am: Newcomers Group Class

Monday, September 22, 9:00am: Articles for October eCommunigram due

Wednesday, September 24, 7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 28, 10:15am: Traditional Hybrid Worship, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Times

Sunday, September 28, TBA: CUCC Sidney Dairy Barn Fun Event – details coming soon

Watch upcoming Announcement Sheets and the August eCommunigram for more information

Be sure to check Facebook page for updates.



**National
Food Bank
Day**

nationaldaytime.com

TALK LIKE
A PIRATE DAY



Mission Ministry

A few upcoming dates for your calendar this month:



1. **September 14th** - One Great Hour of Sharing offering - this is one of the 5 annual collections with the national UCC.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation is,

light shines. We hope you can help as you are able!

2. **September 21st** - If you are part of our summer/fall Newcomers group, we'll be meeting for session 3 after church in the Fellowship Hall.



3. **October 5th** - School Kit assembly - we'll work assembly line style after church in the fellowship hall to stuff our school bags with all the goodies we've been collecting! Hope you can come help! We still need a few things before then - please check the graph in the entry way to see if you can assist in securing the remaining items needed!

Thanks Community! You are the best!

Jeanne Ward, Patty Gropp



Men's Breakfast



The Men of CUCC meet the first Thursday of each month for breakfast. Join them **7:00am Thursday, September 4, 2025**, for breakfast at Maple and Yolk Restaurant, 810 W Killarney St Urbana, IL 61801.

Contact Tom Ward if you have any questions.

Anyone who identifies as a man is welcome to join the group for breakfast.

~Tom Ward (wardt508@comcast.net)

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Just 4 Fun BREFFAS



We had **14 folks** gather for breakfast on July 8 at Perkins. Our next Just 4 Fun BREFFAS breakfast gathering is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 9** at 8:30am.

Everyone is invited to attend. If you would please RSVP if you're coming it will help us know how many tables we'll be needing. You can text Rocio @ 217-418-6185 OR call and leave a message.

Remember you are still welcome to join us whether you RSVP or not ...orders will be placed by 8:45am to be cognizant of everyone's time. Thank you all for participating and gathering in community.



Cool Young at Heart Kids



Ten retirees "Cool Kids" had lunch and enjoyed visiting and catching up with each other at Hacienda Agave on Tuesday, August 19th.

Our September lunch will be a picnic lunch at Colbert Park, 203 E. Church Street in Savoy. Everyone should bring a lunch and drink and join us at a small pavilion at the park on **Tuesday,**

September 16th, 11:30 a.m. I believe Chase and Marilou plan to bring a group game or two for us to enjoy. Watch for an email in September. -Peg and Roger



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 sign-up online to serve as an usher or greeter, scan the QR Code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/cuccgul> or sign up to serve as liturgist, usher, or greeter sign up on the paper sign-up sheets for **September and October 2025** in the Parlor.

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Volunteer Opportunities

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up
Worship Team	Technical Help	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	
	Usher, Greeter	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-worship
	Liturgist	Sebastian Major	smajor1123@gmail.com	Paper Sign in Parlor
Prayer Team	Team Member	Office Manager	Info@community-ucc.org	
Children's Ministry	Event Planner/Leader	Alison Anders	amanders@Illinois.edu	
Jubilee Café	Meal Prep, Cook, Clean-up	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	https://tinyurl.com/JubileeCafe-Volunteer



Zoom Meetings

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=UmMwdW01ZFBmV0hpZmxrRWNIUmhwdz09	+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)



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