

OUR COMMUNITY



Sunday, May 3, 2026

Community United Church of Christ—CUCC, UCC Campus Ministry—UCC-CM

PRAYER & AWARENESSES

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- We pray for an end to the gun violence across the United States and for healing and hope for those families affected. May all our weapons be turned to plowshares.
- We pray for an end to escalating violence against LGBTQ+ people.
- We pray for an end to racially charged violence.

Prayer Requests shared in worship Sundays, April 26, 2026

We pray for:

- **Prayers of grace for everyone with stressful jobs and hard decisions.** May we do the right thing.
- Prayers of joy as the **Rev. Chad O'Neil** graduates with a Doctor of Ministry degree on April 24.
- **Jubilee guess** who has some housing options in Cook County. He prays for some wisdom and courage as he seeks out these options.
- **Two sets of Jeanne's friends** who are having some struggles right now. Prayers for healing and comfort. Also, prayers of healing and comfort for **Jan Dobson** and **John Cowsert** who are recovering from surgeries and for **Tina** who is caring for John.
- **Sue Fristoe's friend Patty and her family** in your prayers. She was recently diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer just after retiring and moving to her dream home in Minnesota. We ask for prayers of strength and hope as she navigates both her medical journey and her journey back to C-U to continue treatment surrounded by family and friends.
- **Prayers of thanks to the AV team** for their work every week to make sure that those of us who can't come in person are still able to be part of the community. Gratitude for the entire community of CUCC for their continuing commitment to making the worship experience accessible to people with disabilities.
- **Jennifer Cromley and her mom.** Also, prayers of joy with **Patty and Bill Gropp** this weekend as they celebrate the marriage of their **son Chris and his new wife, Sukie!**
- **Eva Lam my dad and my stepmom's health.** May God let them do their journey from NC to IL to attend their kid's graduation.
- **Prayers for all of those affected by gun violence, particularly those who were at the press corps' dinner yesterday.** Gun violence and the threat of that are never the answer so we pray for those who experienced that terrible thing yesterday.
- **John and Tina Cowsert** who are balancing not good news from biopsy results with living everyday together to the fullest. They need our support and prayers, and they give thanks for this community.
- We are deeply saddened to learn from Janice Rench, Colin Rench's mother, of **Colin's passing on Wednesday, April 22.** Colin faced several difficult respiratory illnesses during the winter. He was a dedicated PhD student in musicology and was surrounded by his loving family when he passed away at home. Janice expressed how much our community meant to Colin during a time when Colin needed community the most, particularly Campus Ministry and especially Choir. We join with everyone who knew and cared for Colin in mourning his death. A visitation will be held on May 1, followed by a service on May 2 at his home church, First Congregational Church in Kalamazoo.

CUCC BY THE NUMBERS

59 Adults, 7 Kids, 4 Zoom Users, 1 Facebook Users for a Total of 71 people/devices participated in Easter Resurrection Sunday worship, **04/26/2026**

77 eat in meals, 7 heat-at-home meals, for a total 84 meals were served to our Jubilee

Café guests by 28 volunteers on Monday, **04/27/2026**

13 Folks gathered for Pub Theology, **04/21/2026**

3 AA groups met in our space this week

1 NA group met in our space this week

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST THURSDAY, MAY 7

All who identify as men are invited to breakfast **Thursday, May 7, 2026** at 7:00am at Maple & York Restaurant. Contact Tom Ward with questions at wardt508@comcast.net

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CUCC?

05/03 SUNDAY, CUCC Offices Closed
10:15am Traditional Hybrid Worship, Milestone Sunday and Baptisms, Many Rooms: Extravagant Hospitality is a Christian Practice
11:30am CUCC Emergency Food Security Team Orientation Session
12:00pm Inclusive CM Field Day at Scott Park
8:00pm—9:00pm Manhattan AA Group (Parlor)

05/04 MONDAY
2:00pm Jubilee Café Prep
5:00-6:30pm Jubilee Café
6:30-7:00pm Jubilee Café Clean-up
7:00-8:00pm CM After Hang

05/05 TUESDAY
6:00pm Campus Ministry Interfaith Bible Study at St. Andrew's
7:00pm Pub Theology (Fellowship Hall)
7:00pm-8:30pm Tuesday Night LGBTQ+ AA Group (Parlor)

05/06 WEDNESDAY
12:00pm *Items for Bulletin & weekly email due (for 05/10)*
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

05/07 THURSDAY
7:00am Men's Monthly Breakfast at Maple & York
1:00-8:00pm Campus Ministry Spring Reading Day Study Session (Parlor)
8:00pm-9:30pm Denver AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

05/08 FRIDAY CUCC Offices Closed

05/09 SATURDAY CUCC Offices Closed
8:00pm-10:00pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

05/10 SUNDAY CUCC Offices Closed
10:15am Traditional Hybrid Worship, Confirmation Sunday
8:00pm—9:00pm Manhattan AA Group (Parlor)

05/11 MONDAY
2:00pm Jubilee Café Prep
5:00-6:30pm Jubilee Café
6:30-7:00pm Jubilee Café Clean-up
7:00-8:00pm CM After Hang

05/12 TUESDAY
8:30AM Just 4 Fun BFFREAS at Perkins
7:00pm Pub Theology (Fellowship Hall)
7:00pm-8:30pm Tuesday Night LGBTQ+ AA Group (Parlor)

Email: info@community-ucc.org to be added to the email list to receive the weekly email announcements and monthly newsletter.

PUB THEOLOGY STARTING A NEW BOOK ON TUESDAY, MAY 5

Pub Theology (CUCC Book Club) is about to start a new book on **May 5**. We will be reading *The Bible Says So: What We Get Right (and Wrong) About Scripture's Most Controversial Issues* by Dan McClellan.

Come join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, contact Tom Ward at wardt508@comcast.net.

"LOVE LETTER" TO 2026 CONFIRMANDS DUE MAY 10

You are invited to write a "Love Letter" to CUCC's 2026 confirmands: **Leo Tomkin, Violet Robberts-Mosser, Maggie Hinze-Pifer, Max Murphy, Cora Kasper, and Daehyun Lee**. Confirmation Sunday is on **May 10** (Mother's Day), and letters will be shared with the confirmands on Confirmation Day. Please submit your positive and encouraging "Love Letters" to Pastor Izzy by **May 10**, as your words can have a lasting impact.

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Kathy is seeking volunteers of all ages and ability levels to offer instrumental or vocal music at CUCC during services this summer. Participation is more important than perfection, and songs do not need to be sacred to be appreciated in our services. You may pick a song of your choosing.

To contribute a musical offering this summer, please sign up below. If you would like to collaborate with our pianist Andrey Ivanov (andreyi2@illinois.edu) or someone else in the congregation, please get in touch with them ASAP. Out of courtesy to Andrey, please get sheet music to him at least a week before your Sunday anthem: <https://tinyurl.com/2026SummerMusic>



MISSION MINISTRY HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT

The Mission Ministry Team invites you to participate in the spring yard clean-up at a local DSC Home on **Saturday, May 16 from 9-12 noon**, and as you know, more helpers mean that we can get lots more done! Please sign up on the Sign-Up sheet in the Parlor or **text or call Jeanne (217-840-0668) or Patty (217-722-2587) by Thursday 5/14** to let them know if you are able to attend, and they will send you the address of the home we will be working at. We'll have some snacks available, but bring a water bottle, some work gloves, and any yard work tools you are especially fond of! This is for CUCCers and friends of all ages! Hope you can help!

SUNDAY, MAY 31 IS WORSHIP IN THE PARK FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK

Mark your calendars for our outdoor worship event, taking place at **Blair Park, Rourke Shelter 1406 S. Broadway, Urbana on Sunday, May 31 at 10:15 AM**. Following worship, the Hospitality Team will host a potluck lunch providing fried chicken, plates, silverware, napkins, cups, and water. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share, along with a serving utensil for your contribution. If you prefer a beverage other than water, please bring your own. We also recommend bringing a lawn chair, blanket, sunglasses, and sunscreen. We hope for the weather allows for this event to be held outdoors this year! However, if the weather does not cooperate, both the worship service and potluck will be held in the Fellowship Hall at CUCC.

IDENTITY TEAM NEEDS YOU

CUCC's Identity Team needs your help!

- Please send CUCC event promo flyers and photos from event to Keri Evans at kevans1984@yahoo.com
- CUCC's Identity Team is seeking a **Planned Volunteer** to help us with participation management, on the day of, at **Pride Fest 2026**. Pride Fest is a fall event (September/October — date set by UP Center of Champaign). Please contact Keri Evans at kevans1984@yahoo.com to volunteer.

PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNICATION IN OUR CONGREGATION

Did you know that CUCC has two committees that facilitate communication between the congregation and pastors? The Pastoral Relations committee provides support for CUCC's pastor, advocates for the pastor's leadership, and provides for a regular channel of communication between the pastor and the congregation. The committee meets with Pastor Leah monthly to offer guidance and support her ministry and professional goals. Current members of this committee are Kristy Brownfield, Joel Brotherton, incoming moderator Bill Gropp, and committee chair Cara Finnegan.

Similarly, the Joint Personnel Committee facilitates support and accountability for the ministry of Izzy Colazzo in her position as Director of Campus and Youth Ministries. Members of the committee represent the Church Life Board and the Campus Ministry Board, and they meet quarterly with Pastor Izzy to review her work and to encourage her upcoming projects. Current committee members are past moderator Susan Pawlicki, Ilsa Kantola, and committee chair Stephen Kolderup.

In our congregation, we emphasize the importance of direct communication between the people of CUCC and the pastors. However, in the event that communication has gotten off track, there may be times when one of these committees can be invited to step in and help the parties get back on track together. In these cases, CUCC'ers are invited to contact anyone on the relevant committee.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS SPRING

May 10, Confirmation Sunday

May 17, Acts 1:1-11 -- To the Ends of the Earth: Witness is a Christian Practice

May 24, Acts 2:1-21 -- To Dream Dreams: Visioning as a Christian Practice

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP OR LEARNING MORE ABOUT COMMUNITY UCC?

Are you new to Community UCC or are you considering membership? Discover more about our church and what it means to be part of our community.

We look forward to getting to know you better when you sign up for the next Newcomers Group, which is forming now, by contacting Jeanne Ward at [Jeanne Ward at jeanne_ward@comcast.net](mailto:jeanne_ward@comcast.net) or 217-840-0668, or the church office at info@community-ucc.org or 217-344-5091. We'd love to have you join us.

LITURGISTS, USHERS, GREETERS

Sign up to serve as a Liturgist, Ushers, or Greeters for **May and June** by signing up on the **paper sign-up** in the Parlor by writing your name and checking the task you wish to fill on the paper sign-up sheet.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH OWL CLASSES: Sunday, May 17 11:30am-3:15pm, lunch provided