



Community UCC

We're worth our words

e-Communigram

Volume 65, Issue 6 - June 1 - June 30, 2026

Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation

LETTERS FROM LEAH

Welcome to blinking light season in Champaign-Urbana, otherwise known as summer time. This summer, may you enjoy back yard bar-b-ques with friends and a sip of sweet tea all to yourself in the afternoon. I hope this season brings deep connection to your community and deep contention to your innermost self. And may both connections bring you closer to God. When we know love, we know God.

This summer, may you find yourself outside, maybe more than ever before, perhaps working in your garden or yard in the early morning, finding a patch of shade in the afternoon, or taking a walk in the evening to watch the lightnin' bugs rise as the light fades. Maybe you'll watch some sunsets this summer. While we don't have any big water here over which to watch the sun set, we do have fields. And the wind still blows and a wave is a wave is a wave whether it's water or the ripple of corn. I hope this season brings deep connection with creation. May that connection bring you closer to God. When we connect with creation, we connect with God.

This summer, may you seek out ways to be of service in our community and beyond. May you seek out opportunities to assist and sign up to volunteer whether through or church our in the wider community. I hope, too, that those moments are not all planned, that some just present themselves and in the moment you choose to be helpful, generous, and kind with your time, energy, and heart. I hope by being of service this summer you'll have a moment when the light bulb goes on, and you think, "Oh, that's what that Buechner guy meant when he said, 'The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.'" May your service bring you closer to God. When we serve, we love, and that connects us with God.

Happy summer, y'all.

Blessings....

Table of Contents

- LETTERS FROM LEAH.....1
 - Hope: Worship Schedule.....2
 - The Hope Wheel.....2
- WORSHIP NEWS.....3
 - Notes From your Music Director.....3
 - Worship Assistants.....3
- CAMPUS AND YOUTH MINISTRY.....4
 - Campus and Youth Ministry Corner.....4
 - Current/Upcoming Events.....4
- CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES.....4
- MISSION MINISTRY.....5
 - Strengthen the Church.....4
 - Newcomers Group.....4
- RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARDS.....5
- CUCC'S MONTHLY SOCIAL GATHERINGS.....5
 - Just 4 Fun BREFFAS Breakfast.....5
 - Cool Young at Heart Kids Lunch.....5
- JUBILEE CAFE.....6
- JUBILEE CAFE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.....7
 - Numerous Opportunities to Serve.....7
 - Pick Up Veggies at Sola Gratia Farm.....7
 - Pick Up Donuts at Ye Olde Donut Shoppe.....7
- UPCOMING ONE-TIME EVENTS.....8
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.....12
- ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.....12

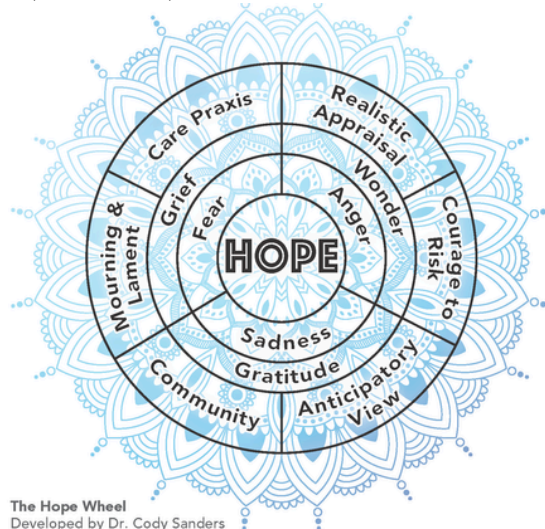
All summer long our theme is Hope for This Moment in History

June 7, Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Matthew 2:13-23, Apocalyptic Emotions: Sadness

June 14, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Judith 8:1-27, Apocalyptic Emotions: Anger

June 21, Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Psalm 137, Trans Immanent Emotions: Grief

June 28, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Psalm 100, Trans Immanent Emotions: Gratitude



WORSHIP NEWS

Notes From Your Music Director

Summer Music

As you may know, choir and my role as Music Director pause from mid-May to mid-August. I hope you will consider offering your musical gifts and talents to a worship service soon. We welcome a wide range of musical styles, including secular music, instrumental music, and music by children. The diversity of our summer music is a blessing to us all!

To contribute to 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>



Helping Kathy

I am also looking for volunteers to help me file music and spruce up the choir room with a few small projects. Please let me know if you're interested in lending a hand.

Organ Update

As some of you have noticed, we have not been using our organ much lately. We've encountered some strange problems with it that we are having trouble reliably replicating, so the organ repairman's homework for us was to play it until we encounter the problem again. This is a long way of saying, if you hear something weird on the organ one Sunday, don't blame Andrey and be glad we have something to report to the repairman! :)

Kathy Lee



Worship Assistants

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 to be a **liturgist, greeter or usher** for June and July 2026 please sign up on the paper sign-up sheet in the Parlor. Just write your name on the date that works for you and check the task you wish to fill.

You will receive an email reminding you that you are scheduled for the Sunday you signed up for that includes instructions for arrival time and job duties.



CAMPUS AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Last month, we celebrated the graduation of many students on Milestone Sunday, from high school students to Campus Ministry students and Jubilee volunteers graduating with their associate's, bachelor's, or master's degrees. It was wonderful to honor them in front of the congregation and to bless them with prayer shawls for their journeys ahead.

Later in May, Confirmation Sunday gave confirmands a chance to reaffirm their baptism and to make their own promises to God as young adults in the church. The excerpts they shared from their faith statements were beautiful and inspiring, as was the music and art they shared with us to express their faith.

The summer months will be a slower time for both Campus and Youth Ministry, but there will still be some planned events and activities for college students and youth who are in town in June, July, and August.

Campus Ministry Drop-In hours for June, July, and early August will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm - 6pm. Alternate meeting times will be available if needed. Campus Ministry students who are around this summer will also be planning some trips to the movies, shared meals, and possibly a field trip or two to visit UCC churches in the Chicagoland area.

The Youth Mission Trip to Asheville is right around the corner. We will be leaving on Saturday, June 6th and returning on Thursday, June 11th. Six youth are coming on the trip, along with six adult chaperones, three of whom are college students. I have also polled parents about dates in June and July for a youth ministry activity. More information will be forthcoming soon.

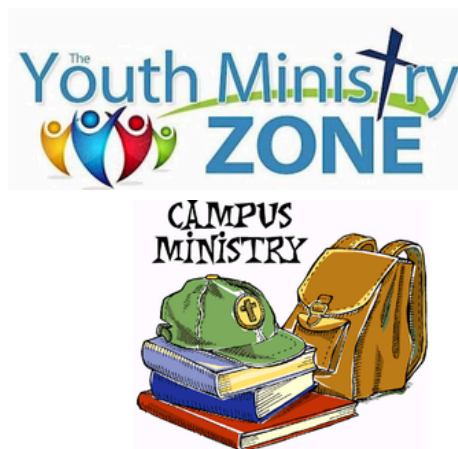
Parents: just a reminder that the remaining balance of \$100 for the Asheville Trip is due by June 6th. It can be paid by check or online at <https://community-ucc.org> by going to the Donate page and selecting "Other Giving". Be sure to put a note that it is for the youth mission trip. Please see Pastor Izzy if you have any questions.

If you would like to connect with me about programming, special events, or anything else, please reach out by email at izzy@ucccampusministry.org.

Peace,
Pastor Izzy

Current/Upcoming Events:

- Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours: Tue/Thu 3pm - 6pm
- Mon, June 1st - Fall planning meeting for Campus Ministry (Zoom)
- Sat, June 6th - Thu, June 11th - Youth Mission Trip to Asheville
- Summer Bible Study for Campus Ministry - dates/times TBD



MISSION MINISTRY

First, we need to thank a bunch of you for the devotion you have been putting into the projects we've tackled so far this year! Several of you have been putting in volunteer time at the habitat house! Nine others of you spent a Saturday morning in May at one of our local DSC community homes for adults with disabilities. Elizabeth, Jeanne, Tom, Marla, Grant, Jennifer, Patty, David, and Ellen all worked hard and made the yard and patio spaces around the home well trimmed and tidy! Many thanks!



Strengthen the Church

We are continuing to collect for the **Strengthen the Church** offering for the next 2 weeks, on both May 31st and June 7th (or anytime between!). The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Our own campus ministry was the recipient of one of these grants during the COVID era, and used that money to fund special online gatherings that carried the group through and found ways to connect. We hope that you will be able to donate this year to enable this fund to continue to help build up ministries in the UCC. You can donate with cash in the globes, by writing a check to Community UCC and writing "Strengthen the Church" in the memo line, or by using the donate link on the Community UCC website and clicking the link titled "Strengthen the Church". Thank you!!

Newcomers

We have set dates for the summer Newcomers Group sessions! Whether you are brand-new to CUCC, have been coming for a long while but never made it official, or are someplace in between, we'd love to have you if you'd like to learn more about CUCC and figure out how you fit! There are 4 sessions, but you are welcome to come just to the first session if you are not sure, and then see if you'd like to learn more! We do ask that you RSVP, either to the church office, or to Jeanne Ward (jeawa@comcast.net, 217-840-0668) to let us know so that we can be sure to have materials and food ready for you! All sessions are held in the church fellowship hall after morning worship, and last for about an hour and a half. Don't worry if you can't attend every session - we'll figure it out!

Session 1 - June 14th, 2026 - 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 - July 12th, 2026 - Opportunities to Plug-In at CUCC - Leaders from some of our Ministry Teams will come to this meeting to talk to you about their roles here at CUCC, how we are organized, and opportunities for participation in the life and ministry of CUCC.

Session 3 - August 9th, 2026 - 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 you and begin getting to know you. We will think about 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 - August 16th, 2026 - 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.

RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARDS

Gift cards make great Father Day gifts. They also make great gifts for that special someone on your list.



Use Raise Right to get eGift cards and send a gift card straight to their inbox. When you purchase the card, check the box that says, "Send as gift by email" and provide the recipient's email address. If you'd like, you can set the specific date that you want the gift email to be delivered. Raise Right makes it easy to be both Jolly and Bright all while sitting in your favorite chair at home.

To create an account, go to the <https://www.raiseright.com> and click on the "signup" button to begin the process of "Joining" an existing program and then enter Community United Church of Christ's enrollment code number: 279D2C266L1L9 to complete the process.

If you encounter any problems during your enrollment process, call 1-800-727-4715, option 3 for assistance or contact Jen Robbennolt at Jennifer.robbennolt@gmail.com.

CUCC'S MONTHLY SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Men's Breakfast

The Men of CUCC meet the first Thursday of each month for breakfast. Join them at 7:00am Thursday, June 4, 2026, 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)

Just 4 Fun BREFFAS

Seven folks gathered for Just 4 Fun BREFFAS breakfast in April. Join us for our April gathering on **Tuesday, June 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 Lunch

UCC Retiree's Cool "Young at Heart" Kids Lunch had 10 retirees join us for lunch, laughter, stories, and comfort food at Oskee's on Tuesday, May 19th. It was beautiful weather, so we got to sit outside on their patio.

Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, June 16th, 11:30 a.m.** at Houlihan's in Champaign. The plan once again is to sit out on their patio, weather permitting. Watch for an email in June. -Roger & Peg Wade



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
5/4/2026	98
5/11/2026	86
5/18/2026	65
5/25/2026	0
N/A	N/A
Meals Served	249

4/27/2026 – Despite the wild weather today, we were still pretty busy tonight at Jubilee Cafe CUCC. It's the end of the month, and that's often a hard time for folks financially. We served a delicious vegetarian meal of baked penne pasta with mozzarella and burrata, along with garlic bread and tossed salad, and people had a choice between banana pudding, apple pie, and almond kringle. We dished out 77 hot meals and 7 heat at home meals.

Guests were treated to a live performance by a local jazz sextet featuring one of our regular volunteers. It was a bright spot in the storm, and people lingered to enjoy the music. Even though we were a bit short-handed tonight, people pitched in to make sure everyone felt welcome and taken care of, and most guests and volunteers left with a smile on their face. It was a good night to be in community together!

[#jubileecafe](#)

[#communityucc](#)

[#jazzinthecu](#)



JUBILEE CAFE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Numerous Opportunities to Serve at Jubilee Cafe



Summer has arrived, and the students are away — but Jubilee Café is still a place that nourishes more than empty bellies. We would love for you to be part of our community on Monday evenings. To volunteer for one or more tasks, scan the QR code or visit Sign-Up Genius at tinyurl.com/mw5zeeky



Pick Up Veggies at Sola Gratia Farm for Jubilee Cafe

There are many opportunities to volunteer to pick up the vegetables from Sola Gratia at **10am Monday** at Sola Gratia's 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 going to the Sign-Up Genius at <https://rb.gy/uii5j8>



Pick Up Donuts from Ye Olde Donut Shoppe for Jubilee Cafe



There are many opportunities to volunteer to pick up donuts **Monday afternoons at 12:55pm** at Ye Old Donut Shoppe, 1401 S. Neil St. (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 going to the Sign Up Genuis at <https://tinyurl.com/53xajssy>

UPCOMING ONE-TIME EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these CUCC events!

Monday, June 1 - Tuesday, June 30, 2026

2026							JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27							
28	29	30											

Monday, June 1, 9:00am – Saturday, June 6, 3:00pm: Construction of A/V Sound Booth continues

Tuesday, June 2, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Thursday, June 4, 7:00am: Men's Monthly Breakfast at Maple & York

Thursday, June 4, 9:00am-3:00pm: CUCC Office Closed

Thursday, June 4, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Saturday, June 6, 7:00am: Youth Mission Trip to Asheville leaves

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

Thursday, June 11, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Thursday, June 11, TBD: Youth Mission Trip to Asheville returns to Champaign

Sunday, June 14, 11:30am-1:00pm: Newcomers Session 1, lunch provided

Monday, June 15, 12:45pm: Staff Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 11:00am: Joint Personal Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 11:30am: Cool "Young at Heart" Kids (formerly CUCC Retiree's) monthly lunch outing at Houlihan's in Champaign

Tuesday, June 16, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Tuesday, June 16, 4:00pm: Stewardship Planning Meeting

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

Thursday, June 18, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Tuesday, June 23, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Thursday, June 25, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Tuesday, June 30, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Watch upcoming Announcement Sheets and eCommunigrams for more information.

Be sure to check Facebook page for updates



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CUCC Team	Opportunity	Contact	Contact Info	Online Sign-Up
Worship Team	Technical Help	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	
Worship Team	Usher, Greeter	Office Manager	info@community-ucc.org	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-worship
	Liturgist	Sebastian Major	smajor1123@gmail.com	Paper Sign Up in Parlor
Choir	Music – vocal or instrumental	Kathy Lee	mailto:music@community-ucc.org	
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