Community UCC

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of *Hope*

Volume 65, Issue 7 – August 1 - August 31, 2026 | **e-Communigram** | **Just Peace, Progressive, LGBTQ Open & Affirming Congregation**

Letters From Leah

At the start of summer, I wrote you a Blessing for Blinking Light Season. Blinking Light Season is coming to a close. In that spirit, I'd like to offer you a Blessing for the Return of Stop Light Season, otherwise known as the Beginning of Fall Semester. If you belonged to another church in town, you'd never know this was the season that was upon us unless you worked on campus, or made the mistake of going to Target on move in weekend. But because you are part of Community UCC and are on campus often, you have opportunity to receive the return of our 60,000 young neighbors as the blessing it is. Students are already starting to move back. As they do, they bring energy, curiosity, and possibilities. I hope this season brings you the same. May the Spirit move in the newness.

As the Return of Stop Light Season commences, may you continue to find yourself outside, enjoying the richness of a late summer garden, the cool of early morning, or the way that golden hour before dusk makes everything glow. Maybe you'll enjoy the sunflowers before they droop their heads low or watch the wind whip through the fields as they change from green to gold. 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 the spirit move through creation.

As the Return of Stop Light Season commences, may you seek out ways to be of service in our community and beyond. Perhaps the summer was too busy, but now you have the time to give. Or perhaps you found something this summer that makes you heart sing and you want to keep at it into the fall. Or maybe what you'll do wasn't even possible without the return of our 60,000 young neighbors and the Return of Stoplight Season Comes as a blessing indeed. No matter which way it is for you, I hope you'll come to now that it is true: 'The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.' May the Spirit move as you serve.

Happy almost fall, y'all.
Blessings...

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Summer Theme:
Hope for This Moment in History

Here is a look at our August worship schedule. We invite you to join us for learning, fellowship, and service.

AUG 2
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Selected verses from Nehemiah 3, 4, 5
Community

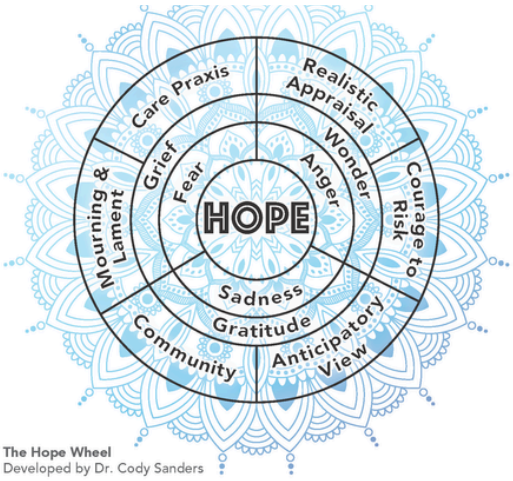
AUG 9
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ruth 1
Mourning and Lament

AUG 16
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 14:1-21
Care Praxis

AUG 23
Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Corinthians 13
Feral Hope

AUG 30
Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Moses, Exodus 3:1-15
Called

The Hope Wheel



The Hope Wheel
Developed by Dr. Cody Sanders

✦ Worship News ✦

What's Happening in Worship

Our summer worship series, Hope for this Moment in History, wraps up on Sunday, August 23. After that, we'll begin a tiny but mighty 4-week series which will run **August 30 - September 20**. This series theme, titled Called, Gathered, Formed, Sent Out, explores what it means to be formed as God's people. We are called to a life of lovingkindness, gathered together as One Body, formed as people of faith, and sent out to serve. During this series, Pastor Leah and Pastor Izzy will both preach. The youth and young adults who went on the summer mission trip will also lead worship.



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 August 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 recieve an email reminding you that you are scheduled for the Sunday you signed up for that includes intructions for arrival time and job duties.



Campus and Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Updates

It has been an eventful summer for Youth Ministry:

The Asheville Mission Trip was a big success, providing opportunities for youth to build their capacity for service, to nurture their relationships with each other, and to enjoy being outdoors in nature. On top of that, they had fun!

In July, members of the youth group went to the movies twice together, once to see Minions & Monsters, and more recently to see the professional recording of a live Broadway performance of Hadestown. We also did a service work day in July that included shopping for school supplies and hygiene products and then assembling nearly 50 hygiene kits at church to be distributed to Jubilee Cafe guests. During this event, the youth and I talked about what they are most interested in doing together this Fall and when, which helped me with planning programming for the coming months. Below is a list of what is already in the works, and there will be more opportunities for service, movies, and other activities as the school year progresses.



Upcoming Events for Youth Ministry

EASTERN ILLINOIS FOODBANK REPACK

August 20th
4:30pm - 6:30pm

YOUTH GROUP

Every other Sunday from 5:00pm - 7:00pm, beginning September 6th

- May not meet on Decmeber 27th if most families are out of town

YOUTH-LED WORSHIP SERVICE

September 13th

- Mission trip focused but all youth are invited to participate

FALL FIELD TRIP

October 18th after worship

- Trip to Curtis Orchard or Hardy's Reindeer Ranch

WEEKEND RETREAT

Dates TBD

- Retreat at Tower Hill Camp in Michigan







Campus Ministry Updates

Even through the summer, Campus Ministry has found ways to keep in touch and spend time together as a community. Those of us still in town have been spending Tuesday nights bowling at Old Orchard Lanes, and we have also met via Zoom several times in the last couple of months for both Pixar Movie Club and to plan the Fall schedule. Also, three campus ministry students joined the Asheville Youth Mission Trip as chaperones, which was really wonderful!

The beginning of a new semester is fast approaching, and we already have several events planned along with our usual weekly things. See what we have coming up below:

Upcoming Events for Campus Ministry

SUMMER DROP-IN HOURS	Tues/Thu from 3:00pm to 6:00pm Through August 20th
REGULAR FALL DROP-IN HOURS	TBD
BOWLING	Tuesdays at 5:30pm at Old Orchard Lanes through the end of August
QUAD DAY	Tabling on the quad from 12:00pm to 4:00pm on August 23rd
DINNERS AT JUBILEE + AFTER-HANG	Monday Nights After-hang beginning August 24th
ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY FALL KICK-OFF	August 27th at 6:00pm
UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY BINGO WELCOME EVENT	August 28th at 6:00pm
CAMPUS MINISTRY CHAPERONES CO-LEAD WORSHIP WITH YOUTH	September 13th
FALL RETREAT AT TOWER HILL CAMP	October 9th - 11th
UCC CAMPUS MINISTRY PRIDE FEST BOOTH	October 17th
CAMPUS MINITRY-LED WORSHIP	October 18th
CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER AND FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY	November 13th
READING DAY STUDY SESSION	December 10th







Like last year, Campus Ministry also plans to participate in CUCC congregational activities and will be looking for folks to host students for lunch after worship. You can sign up at https://tinyurl.com/hostucccm4lunch or look for a QR code in next week's Announcements sheet.

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

UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS

AUG 18
Tidy Up Day

Pastor Izzy and pastor Leah will be spending Tuesday, August 18, 10-3 pm tidying up our space for the start of the school year. If you would like to help us tidy up, enjoy some lunch, and help get the church ready to welcome back students!

AUG 23
Quad Day

On Sunday, August 23rd, Quad Day at the University of Illinois, we will be handing out grilled hot dogs and water as a way to share hospitality, build connections, and let students know they are valued members of our community.
Many volunteers are needed to make this outreach event a success. Please watch for the sign-up sheet in the Parlor or contact Rocio at 217-418-6185 or dr.jamison13@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

AUG 23
Blessing of the Backpacks

Whether you are a student, teacher, professor, or support person, we invite you to bring your backpack to church on Quad Day, participate in this moment of blessing for a new school year, and receive a special gift.

AUG 26
Home Dedication

From the Interfaith Alliance: The Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Unity Build is complete! Thanks to so many amazing volunteers. All are invited to a dedication ceremony of the Davidson family home on Wednesday, August 26th at 5:30pm. We'll have the opportunity to offer blessings and present the keys to the family.

AUG 30
Annual Summer Picnic

The Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County is hosting their annual summer picnic on **Sunday, August 30, 4:00-6:00pm at Crystal Lake Park, Urbana**. Join us in the Large Pavillion, accessible from Park Street, for yard games, bubbles, and more! Grilled items (both meat based and vegetarian) and beverages will be provided by the Interfaith Alliance. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you can, or just bring yourself!







It's School-Kit Time!

Every year, we collect school supplies in order to assemble Kids' Kits for Church World Services. After collecting in June, July, and August, we assemble the kits in the fall and deliver them to a CWS "depot" where they are shipped all over the United States and world for kids who need them. Our goal for the last two years has been to send 100 kits, and together, we've achieved that goal! We hope to try again this year!

There is a collection box in the front corner church entry on 6th Street. **Attached to the wall near the box is a list of needed supplies**. Please only buy supplies on the list, since it is important for shipping purposes that the weight of each kit is standard. This summer, when you see school supplies on sale, please pick up a few (or a lot!) Although the list tells the items needed for one kid kit, buy items in whatever quantities you want. For example, if you see rulers on sale, buy several! Or if you see kids' scissors, buy a bunch! We will track your donations on the graph by the box, so consult it if you want to see what is needed the most at any given time. **Please bring supplies to church by August 31st!**

We will also need folks to sew school bags to put the kits in. If you are a sewing person, take a pattern sheet from the table in back of the church sanctuary, or follow this link and click on the lower blue box to download the pattern: https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/school-kits/ We have fabric available if you need some to sew - just ask Patty or Jeanne.

UPCOMING SEPTEMBER EVENTS

SEPT 6
Gathering of the Waters

Join us for worship and the Gathering of the Waters on Sunday, September 6. If you collected water on your summer travels, bring a small vessel of water to worship with you to be joined with water that others collected on their journeys and poured into the Baptismal Font. Just be sure to label any vessel of water you bring with you with your name and the location where the water was collected.

SEPT 13
School Kit Packing

Join us on September 13th to assemble Kids' Kits for Church World Services!

SEPT 27
Bike Ride / Pizza Party

Save the date – On September 27th we will have our annual bike ride and pizza party at Riggs Brewery. Join us for fun for the whole congregation!

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, September 4**, 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

There was no gathering in August. Join us for our September gathering on **Tuesday, September 8 at 8:30am at Perkin's**
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.

Retiree's Cool Young at Heart Kids Lunch

Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, August 18th**, 11:30 a.m. at **Brown Bag Deli, 212 W. Washington Street, Monticello**.

After lunch, for those that would like to walk across the street and check out Prairie Fire Glass (a small locally owned glass blowing studio and art gallery), the owner will open the doors for us and will do a mini demo for us. *As always, all are welcome to join us, even if you aren't retired.*

Parking is available on Washington Street as well as other streets near Brown Bag and Prairie Fire and also there is a parking lot behind Brown Bag.

Please let us know if you will be joining us by this **Sunday, August 16th** if possible so that we can let the folks at Brown Bag know approximately how many will be eating there.

As always, we are happy to provide rides and carpooling to Monticello also. Just give us a text, call or email and we can arrange the rides.

We hope you can join us for an end of the summer outing!

-Peg (217-369-0474)
-Roger (217-369-0475)

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
7/13/2026	91
7/20/2026	82
7/27/2026	96
8/3/2026	70
8/10/2026	78
Total Meals Served	**417**

8/3/2026 - "You know," one of our Jubilee Cafe CUCC volunteers said, "this place makes me happy." In this world that is often full of bad news, tragedy, and disappointment, that's not nothing. I often tell you a story about how jubilee impacts our guests. It impacts our volunteers, too, giving them purpose, connection, and community which are all essential for human flourishing. It's true that we feed more than hungry bellies here at Jubilee Cafe, and sometimes, it's the volunteers that feast. This evening, guests had their choice of a chicken enchilada casserole, or vegetarian version of the same. Each casserole was layered with housemade enchilada sauce, chicken or the vegetarian protein, black beans, and a mix of 4 cheeses. Every entree was served with a side of sauteed squash, peppers, onions, and tomatoes, along with a curtito slaw. We served 58 meat, 6 veg, and 6 heat at home meals.
For dessert, guests had their choice of housemade banana pudding, housemade pineapple bread pudding, angel food cake topped with a housemade raspberry sauce, or assorted pastries, some topped with a housemade cold fudge which, for Champaign-Urbana folks, tasted an awful lot like Jasrling's cold fudge thanks to Anna Barnes' kitchen wizardry.













UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, Aug 13 - Monday, Aug 31, 2026

Thursday, August 13, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Sunday, August 16. 11:30am-1:00pm: Newcomers Group Session 4

Tuesday, August 18, 11:30am-1:00pm: Cool Young at Heart Kids Monthly Lunch Gathering at Brown Bag Deli in Monticello

Tuesday, August 18, 10:00am-3:00pm: Tidy Up Day

Tuesday, August 18, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Tuesday, August 18, 5:30pm: CUCC Summer Bowling at Old Orchard Lanes

Tuesday, August 18, 6:30-8:00pm: CUCC CLB Monthly Meeting (zoom)

Wednesday, August 19, 1:30-2:30pm: Ecumenical Pride Service Planning Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 9:30-10:30am: Community Alliance Meeting (zoom)

Thursday, August 20, 3:00-6:00pm: Campus Ministry Summer Drop-In Hours

Sunday, August 23, 11:30am-3:30pm: Quad Day

Sunday, August 23, 11:30pm: Blessing of the Backpacks

Monday, August 24, 12:30-1:30pm: UYMCA Personnel Committee

Tuesday, August 25, 5:00pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 5:30: CUCC Summer Bowling at Old Orchard Lanes

Wednesday, August 26, 5:30: Davidson Family Home Dedication

Thursday, August 27, 6:00pm: Ecumenical Bible Study Fall Kick-Off

Thursday, August 27, 6:30-8:00pm: Board Meeting

Friday, August 28, 6:00-8:00pm: Campus Ministry Bingo (Welcome Back Event)

Sunday, August 30, 4:00-6:00pm: Interfaith Alliance Annual Picnic at Crystal Lake Park, Urbana







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 Liturgist	Office Manager Sebastian Major	info@community-ucc.org smajor1123@gmail.com	https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAAAC2AA1FD0-worship 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 MEETING INFORMATION

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=UmMwdW01ZFBmV0hpZmxrRWNlUmhwdz09	+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