

**WELCOME FROM
MS. SARAH J. NOCEDA
DIRECTOR OF
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION.**

We at CUCC practice a faith that incorporates elements of mind, body and spirit. We believe our children do better when they lead lives in true harmony and balance with the Creator. Songs, stories and stretching make Sunday school a place of peace and learning. Our community strives to embrace the belief that Church, a love of Creation, and the Creator should be cultivated, never forced.

Our youth assume many responsibilities, not the least of which is that of self exploration, being good role models to the younger members of the congregation and great members of our church family as a whole. Here at CUCC we offer a safe place for people to question and grow in their faith. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



**COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Religious Education



FOR EVERY AGE

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

1. Opportunity for our children to grow in faith starts Sunday mornings. CUCC holds pre-school for ages 3-4 after the Children's Moment during Worship. Children grades K-5 participate in our rotation workshops from 9-10 a.m. Our curriculum, "Come Join The Circle" focuses on our progressive Christian journey using Multiple Intelligence Theory, and the help of a host of talented teachers and music makers. Our "tweens and teens" grades 6-12 study a varied curriculum directed at how to better navigate the stormy seas of adolescence with God's help and a strong set of core values.

2. Over the course of the academic year, our children have explored our faith tradition through the following themes:

- David the Shepherd King
- Christmas Journeys
- Jonah the Prophet
- Women of the Resurrection
- Paul and the Early Church

Other ways we involve our children in our church family include an acolyte workshop, a Sunday school led Worship Service, and our annual Christmas pageant.

3. Additionally, our Sunday school has participated in the service tradition of our community by raising money for Heifer International, creating a time capsule to place at the foot of our newly installed Peace Pole, and celebrating Earth Day.

4. Our Church nursery is open for children under 3 during Sunday school and Worship service. A choice of either Yoga or Children's Choir is offered for our K-5 immediately following the Children's Moment in the service.

YOUTH GROUP

1. Our youth group (6th through 12th grade) a.k.a "The Justice League", meets every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. in the Tower Room. Each week's activities begin and end with prayer and include opportunities to share our "highs and lows" in an environment of trust.

2. "The Justice League" is a community where everyone has a voice, where questions can be asked, and sometimes even answered, and our relationship with each other is one of mutual support and understanding.

3. In the past year, we have watched movies, played Frisbee, made soup for the Times Center, and sandwiches for the Catholic Worker House. We've acted in the Christmas pageant, sold pre-made cookie packets and soup mixes, gone on a

mission trip to St. Louis, and eaten more food than we ever thought we could. All the while we have tried to deepen our understanding of what it means to be Christians in today's world, and how we can be there for each other as we figure it out.

ADULT EDUCATION

1. Our adult education programs are borne out of our identity as a just peace, open and affirming, progressive church. We also use CODAC (Community Observes, Discerns, Acts, and Celebrates), a broad process model with roots in liberation theology.

2. Book studies and education courses – which meet during Sunday school time or in the evening – included the following during the past year:

"Spiritual Activism" -Developing spiritual practices that suit your daily life

"Countering Pharaoh's production"-Consumption Society and our faith

"Living the Questions"-A fresh alternative on Christian invitation, initiation, and spiritual formation

Also, we invite members of our congregation to present lecture and seminar series: this past year series centered on Reducing Our Carbon Footprint and The History of the UCC in Champaign County.