



The Congregational Church of Batavia

United Church of Christ



2025 Annual Report

Celebrating our 190th anniversary!

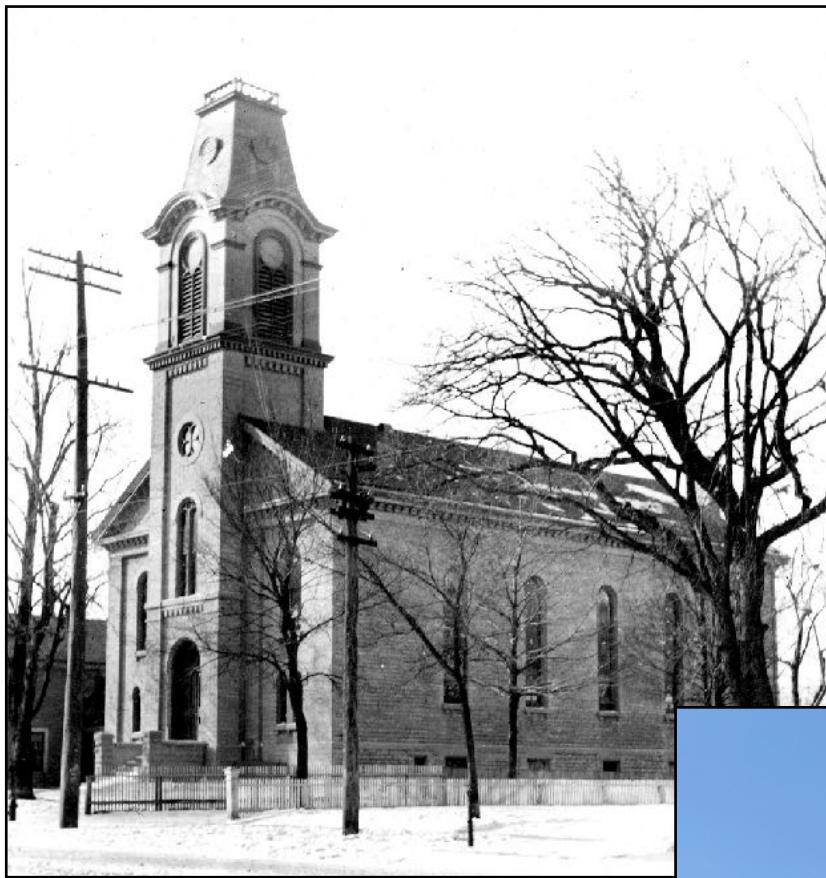


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Mission Statement

We are an active faith community dedicated to glorifying God, learning and applying God's word, and bringing the love of Christ to our world.

Empowered by Christ's love, we seek to be a caring church open to everyone.

As Christ's disciples, we invite all to join us in bringing the love of Jesus to the world through worship, education, evangelism and service.

Vision for 2025

Prepared May 2019

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and future." — JEREMIAH 29:11*

We reaffirm our mission statement that "we seek to be a caring church open to everyone. As Christ's disciples we invite all to join us in bringing the love of Jesus to the world through worship, education, evangelism and service. We join together to open wide the doors of our church to include participation by any and all."

As we start on this 5-year quest, in 2019, we already see ourselves as a congregation that acknowledges the role of regular, theologically sound worship services in personal and corporate growth, that strives to treat people of all ages, genders, religious backgrounds (and any other "group" status) with respect and dignity (indicated by our having chosen "Open and Affirming" status as a congregation), and that values its members, new and longer term, who have been willing to stick with their commitments in a time of change and challenge.

VISION2025: In 2025, our reality will reflect these key principles:

- We are a church that lives out our UCC tagline, "whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here," in very concrete ways.**

The Congregational Church of Batavia provides a place of refuge, where people feel safe. Members and visitors experience a sense of family, through which they feel our

love and care. This encourages members and regular attenders to become fully involved in the life of our congregation, committing their time and talents in service to Christ.

Our internal communications enhance fellowship; our external communications extend a welcome to the community. We invite people in the surrounding communities to interfaith outreach, entertainment, and general-interest educational events. Our church website, social media outlets, special events press releases, and especially our members' caring and welcoming personal conduct, bear witness to our vibrant community of worship, attracting new members to our diverse faith family.

- We are a church that values growth in faith through worship and lifelong learning as core parts of our mission.**

In weekly and special services, we experience God's presence, love, and grace through sermons, scripture readings, prayer, sacraments, music, and other elements of worship. We emerge from worship services feeling assured, fulfilled, energized, and challenged, with a deeper understanding of the Gospel and its meaning, power, and practice in modern-day life. We experiment with additional forms of communing with God and each other outside of the regular Sunday morning worship service.

Building on our strength as a multi-generational church and the strong reputation of the Batavia Nursery School, we have established an active family ministry, one which recognizes that families come in all shapes and sizes. Our innovative children's and youth ministries attract young families. Opportunities for children to participate in services support our focus on vibrant faith formation. Participation in Wednesday night and Sunday evening programs, youth retreats, mission trips, and service projects equips young people with leadership skills as well. We encourage them to find their own spiritual voices, and we help them to understand and experience the interdependent and relational aspects of our life together in Christ.

Our worship services match the diverse needs and passions of church members in terms of content, style, format, accessibility, and schedules. We specifically offer many opportunities for younger members to get involved and feel valued. Our music program includes a wide variety of music and musicians who celebrate and worship God. We regularly offer an appealing blend of traditional and contemporary approaches to worship, praising God in all ways that deepen our understanding of and gratitude for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **We are committed to serving as the hands and feet, and heart, of Christ.**

Because we have received God's grace, we joyfully share our time, talents, and financial gifts, experiencing on a deeply personal level the abundant blessings of giving. One reflection of this commitment to living out a life guided by Christ's priorities is our emphasis on building relationships:

- between each of us and our God
- between each other to provide a strong and resilient church fellowship,
- and reaching into the community, to support and defend those in need of our advocacy.

We use whatever positions of privilege we possess in the service of those without those privileges, with a painful

awareness of injustice and suffering that keeps us motivated. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., we strive to be "extremists for love."

Members recognize our ministry teams as a rewarding area of service within the church. We have no shortage of members willing to step up to fill team member vacancies, committing their time and talents to the church and to charitable organizations within our community and beyond. Youth and young-adult mission work, a volunteer area separate from the work of ministry teams, also inspires the entire church membership and provides a model in the Fox Valley for Spirit-led service and living evangelism. Our ministry teams and mission efforts work together on a regular basis. With strong volunteer support, we respond as needed to emotional, physical, and financial needs of our members, and reach out in aid of community needs as well.

We have fully funded our ministry programs, and we can launch new ministries. We contribute to the support of our denomination and have committed to outreach giving at 10% or more of budgeted income. Many church members have adopted tithing as a response to God's gifts and as one important part of their commitment to honoring God. Through the encouragement of estate-planning workshops, more of our members have included the church in their estate plans. Between planned giving and tithing, we have established an endowment fund to cover renovation and ongoing repair of church facilities without incurring debt. Our general endowment fund thus provides long-term financial stability.

- **We are a church learning that change is inevitable in life.**

We know we must be flexible enough to embrace necessary changes. In a world of change, we listen faithfully for God's still-speaking voice.

*Where there is no vision,
the people perish.*

Proverbs 29:18



Moderator

Our church's tagline, "*Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here*," is more than words — it is a reminder of the paths we each walk, sometimes winding, sometimes straight, always unique. In 2025, we set out together on new *shared* journeys, taking steps together towards shared visions. We walked with confidence at times, with careful discernment at others, yet always with a commitment to compassion, justice, and faithfulness.

This year invited us to pause, listen, and feel the ground beneath our feet before moving forward. Council spent time discerning where God might be calling us, while staying present in the rhythms of daily church life. That spirit of listening shaped our work, most visibly in the careful process that led to our Capital Campaign. Through interviews, study, open conversations, and a congregational vote, we were reminded that our strength lies not only in the paths we choose, but in how we walk them — side by side, with trust and clarity. The unanimous vote affirmed a vision for a church that is stable, welcoming, and ready to serve generations to come.

Listening also meant widening the circle of fellowship. Throughout the year, Council welcomed members of ministry teams and committees to share their work with us, and we reflected on how their roles support our vibrant church family. These conversations deepened our understanding of ministry's many forms and reminded us that leadership is shared across the congregation, often in quiet, steadfast ways. Our close relationships with the Finance and Capital Campaign teams this year also helped shape our shared paths. With their partnership, resources were stewarded wisely, contracts and reports reviewed with care, and systems strengthened for the long-term health of our church. We celebrate the time and talent that these church family members all bring to our collective journey.

Within the Council itself, we carved out space for reflection and learning. Revisiting the church constitution helped us understand our roles, responsibilities, and the guidance it provides on our shared path. These discussions sparked questions about governance, clarity, and flexibility, laying the

groundwork for future conversations on how the constitution might evolve alongside the journey of our church.

The Council also attended to the ongoing rhythms of church life, from volunteer needs and staffing to scheduling and resources. As roles evolve, we recognize the importance of inviting new people into leadership and ministry, ensuring there are enough helping hands to share the load. We are deeply grateful for our dedicated staff that walk the journey with us; their creativity, compassion, and commitment sustain the life of the church, especially in challenging times.

We also spent time reflecting on what it means to *belong*. Conversations about membership, connection, and participation reminded us that people arrive from many places and points along their journeys. Rather than rushing to define membership or limit belonging, we chose to walk attentively alongside one another — to listen to stories, hopes, and questions — trusting that our practices can grow to reflect both our theology and our lived reality as an open and affirming church.

Beyond our walls, we sought to extend Christ's love to the wider community. Through partnerships, advocacy, shared events, and hospitality, we extended a welcome that reaches outward — offering connection, care, and solidarity to neighbors of all ages near and far. Whether staffing farmers' market booths, sponsoring bouncy houses at the community block party, collecting food donations, or opening our space for neighbors to gather, we built connections with both familiar and new faces throughout the year.

Looking back, 2025 was not defined by a single milestone, but by a shared commitment to walk together with faith and intention. Looking ahead, we know the road will continue to unfold with both promise and uncertainty. And yet, we move forward rooted in the truth we proclaim and strive to live each day: *Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here*.

As a Council, as a congregation, and as a church family, we will keep walking — together.

Lucinda Page, Moderator

*In essentials
unity, in
nonessentials
diversity, in
all things
charity.*

UCC

Vice Moderator

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as Vice Moderator this year. I have learned so much about our church, our Constitution, and the responsibilities held within each leadership position. I am continually inspired by those who give so generously of their time, energy, and passion to help our church grow and thrive.

A significant part of my role as Vice Moderator has been collaborating with our Members-at-Large (Kristin Lasta and Judy Jablecki) to address the Human Resources needs of our staff. I have enjoyed getting to know our dedicated team of employees at CCOB. They work hard to strengthen our ministries and are welcoming to everyone, wherever they are on life's journey.

In addition to being a resource and advocate for staff, some key accomplishments and areas of focus this year included:

- Reviewing staffing needs raised during Council discussions
- On-boarding our new AV support staff member, Caleb
- Ensuring employees received up-to-date information from the UCC Pension Board for benefits offered
- Gathering information and reviewing feedback to develop a consistent Staff Reflection process for essential and support staff. The goal is to implement this process in 2026 with a consistent pathway moving forward for staff to receive feedback and review.

I've witnessed the leadership of our outgoing Moderator, Lucinda, and have truly enjoyed working closely with her and our fellow Council members. We have had important discussions on topics ranging from the Capital Campaign to defining church membership to addressing security concerns. (*See Moderator's Annual Report for additional details.*) Experiencing the work of Council and our ministry teams has strengthened my belief in the deep, shared commitment our congregation has to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

The accomplishments of 2025 reflect the collective effort of many, and it has been a privilege to contribute to that work. As we enter 2026, I look forward to continuing to learn, grow, and serve as Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Larson Angelini, Vice Moderator

*United in
Christ's love,
a just world
for all.*

UCC

Church Clerk*

As I finish up my second year as Clerk, I still have projects to complete and . . . I will continue for another two years. Seems I can't get enough of those Council folks. 2025 has brought some huge personal changes with the loss of my father and retirement, and it is good to be surrounded by my church family and be able to focus some more time and energy on this work.

What are these projects you ask? The big one is moving forward with our discussion of membership: what it means, how to get a more accurate count of our active members. This means going through Realm, past records, and Barb Zillgitt's outstanding spreadsheets. These have been uploaded into Drive, and are a thorough, detailed list of members, leaders, baptism, marriages, and deaths dating back to the very beginning in 1835! Barb is ready to pass on the role of "keeper of the data" and well, I do love a good spreadsheet.

Speaking of 1835, I am also in conversations about our archives, which are housed at NIU in DeKalb. I visited last spring, and passed on the clerk record book that I had been protecting (ok, hoarding) that dated back to the 1930's. We hope to update the collection from where it leaves off and fill in some blanks. I would love to include interviews and stories from current church members, especially those who have been around for awhile. I appear to have developed a passion for preserving our church history.

Looking to the future, Council is talking about our membership process and the language we have around church membership. Some people have had unhappy or even painful experiences around this topic, and we need to acknowledge that. We want to be inclusive, not exclusive. Welcoming — no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We are planning discussion meetings for the congregation and will send out a survey this spring or summer.

I am the 24th clerk since 1835. Since 2010 each clerk has served one 2-year term. Amelia Brown served 45 years — from 1883 to 1928 (she died in 1928). John Gustafson (yes, THAT John Gustafson) served 41 years, from 1928 to 1969. We have a few that served 10-15 years and some more recent long-term clerks including Judy Jablecki and Barb Zillgitt (8 and 6 years respectively). After her official tenure, Barb continued to keep those extensive records, for which we are extremely grateful.

When you look at the list, there are some big shoes to fill. Taking minutes at Council meetings is part of recording our history. Who we were at the time. What was important to us. What ministries we provided. How we worked together as the Body of Christ. Another 2 years at this seems like a drop in the bucket, but I will do what I can. I hope that those early clerks, who hand wrote *everything*, are proud of the work we are doing. I still hand write a lot of things, but in addition, you can bet there will be spreadsheets.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Deptolla, Clerk

*The Clerk's membership record for 2025
may be found on p.22

Finance Team

With work on the yet to be named Capital Campaign officially underway, in February, the Finance Team welcomed Annie Barsch as the new CCOB Treasurer. As Annie embraced the challenge of learning about all aspects of the church's financial life, team members worked with her on reviewing the status of Endowment, Memorial and Memorial Garden Funds, updating the church's Chart of Accounts and initiating the regular tracking of the performance of investment funds held by the UCC.

Treasurer*

2025 ended the year with a \$10,796 deficit in revenue and a \$26,465 deficit in expenses. Therefore overall we ended with a \$15,669 surplus; just about the exact amount of our 3rd covid check. There is still \$10,000 in a holding account and \$11,000 will be put into the 2026 budget from our 4th and final covid check.

New boilers and solar panels were purchased and installed as part of the capital campaign. The capital campaign loan was paid in full at \$214,335.

Annie Barsch

In support of the work of the Heritage to Horizon Capital Campaign Committee, the Finance Team reviewed and recommended to the Church Council for its approval the proposed Capital Campaign Services Agreement with Walsh & Associates and CCOB's contract with Carbon Solutions, providing for the sale of energy credits through our new solar panel project. The team also researched options to provide for the donation of stock to the Capital Campaign. At the end of the year, the team recommended paying off the balance of the construction loan used to finance the purchase of a new boiler, and pay for much needed roof repairs, as well as the installation of our new solar panels.

2025 Finance Team Members included: Annie Barsch (Treasurer), Phil Woolley (Financial Secretary), Jim Otepka (Chair), Larry Grant, Becky Hall, Sarah Greenhagen-McCrea, Ellen Field, and Carlene Hougen.

Jim Otepka

Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary has the responsibility to 1.) receive and record all regular Sunday and special offerings, donations and payments made to the church, 2.) deposit all such funds in the church's bank account and 3.) transmit records of all deposits to the Church Treasurer.

The Financial Secretary also records pledges made by church members, maintains an accounting for each contributor and provides contributors with periodic and year-end statements of account. Church members may access their giving record at any time by signing up for and signing into Realm. All records are maintained on a secured computerized system.

Roughly half of all giving transactions continue to be executed electronically through Realm. This reduces the manual entry of contributions.

The Financial Secretary is a member of the Finance Team.

Respectfully,
Phil Woolley

*Detailed financial reports begin on p. 23.

Pastor

Every year the time to write the annual pastor's report comes around, and every year, I struggle because how do you condense an entire year of ministry and community, celebration and loss, growth and vision into a page and a half? It's like trying to sum up someone's entire life with one word. It's an impossible task, but an interesting exercise. So I set for myself the challenge of finding one word to describe how I feel about 2025 here at The Congregational Church of Batavia...and after some time and contemplation, I landed on the word ***Grateful***.

There is so much that has happened here this year that inspires my gratitude, my thankfulness to the God with whom we journey, and to the community of people who walk alongside us as well. In the ebb and flow of daily tasks and challenges, in a time of division and even animosity among folks in our nation, in personal seasons of struggle and of celebration, CCoB has been a place of stability, of welcome, of joy, of growth, of Spirit. In baptisms and weddings and funerals, in outreach and connection with our neighbors and prayer, in (endless) meetings and Zoom Bible studies and impromptu visits, we have lived out who we truly are...children of God, living in rootedness and vision.

I want to highlight three things specifically that have filled me with gratitude this year:

- First, there is the installation of ***the solar panels*** on our roof. This was an idea that started to gain traction well over three years ago, an external sign of our commitment to stewardship, both environmental and financial. There were roadblocks along the way, red tape, more meetings, but our very committed team saw it through to completion, and finally, this dream became a reality in the fall/winter of this year. I am grateful for a faith community that takes God's call to care for earth and each other so seriously, and for the real grit of the folks here that shepherded the idea into tangible fact that now sits atop our church.

- Second, I can't begin to express the utter amazement and gratitude I feel when I think about ***the Capital Campaign*** that just came to an end in December this year. We have been talking about doing one for as long as I have been pastor here. It took the leadership and hard work of so many, the confidence and generosity and prayer of the whole community, the work of God's Spirit in our midst, and well over three and a half years of dedicated effort to get us past our initial Goal of \$750,000, past our Challenge Goal of \$1,000,000, to a total of \$1,169,812.88! This means many things, but one of them is that we are a community heading in the same direction, and committed to seeing this church thrive as a place of God's welcome and love well into the future.

- And finally, I am profoundly grateful to have experienced, to have seen, to have known in the last year a faith community that, rooted in a strong past, has caught the vision of what God has for them in the future...and they, ***you***, are excited about it! You have all heard the call, you have all found a place to share your gifts, you have all opened wide your arms, to welcome our neighbors, the stranger, God's Kingdom. That is an amazing thing, and I can't wait to see where it takes us.

Let me end with the words found in Galatian five, words that have been ringing in my ears and heart for weeks.

...be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

I won't sing, at least not publicly, but I do share my gratitude with you all, and my excitement about what this year has to bring.

Respectfully,
Reverend Paige Wolfanger

Director of Music

It's been another lovely year of music making at the Congregational Church of Batavia!

Our biggest news: Lily gave birth to a baby girl! With Lily on maternity leave for the months of June and July, we had Amy Allan, Leah Lehman, Peter Barsch, me, and the Praise Band filling in to lead the congregation in song. Many thanks to all who came together to allow Lily some time to breathe and commune with her daughter. Thanks also to Dave and Marnie Mammenga and Jean Deptolla, who were on deck ready to play in case Lily went into labor early.

Our summer series was enhanced by a beautiful theme song written by Lark and Laurel, who came in to lead it several times. Lark and Laurel also played at our church birthday party in August (along with musical friends Acappellago and Aeverling), and led the music at our Longest Night service in December.

Chancel Choir sang regularly throughout the year as usual. We were happy to welcome back Jeff Crane to the tenor section after several years' absence. In December, the Chancel offered a Lessons and Carols program, enhanced by Lily's organ and piano playing, the Children's Choir, and a brass quintet from Batavia High School, led by BHS band director Brian Van Kley, who loves our church choir so much he was talking us up to the kids! Susan Price opened her home to the choir for the Christmas party, which I understand was very intimate in size, but appreciated. (I was too ill to attend this year).

When Chancel Choir wasn't singing, it was because there was music being offered by so many other people and groups: Praise Band, Men's Choir, Women's Choir, Bell Choir, Children's Choir, singers as soloists or together in duets, and instrumentalists playing not only piano or organ but also trumpet, violin, viola, flute, and guitar. May God continue to bless us as we grow musically and spiritually.

In Christ,
Vicki Linich



Director of Children's Ministries

Reviewing Children's Ministry in 2025, we are grateful for a year filled with faith, fellowship, and service. We began the year with a visit from SciTech's mobile planetarium where we observed the night sky over Batavia and gained an idea of what the Magi saw as they traveled to find the infant Jesus.

In our programs, we strive to ensure every child feels welcome. We purposefully set aside time to build relationships and discuss how we can better welcome others into our classes.

Service remains a cornerstone of our ministry. This year, we completed several food-related projects, including preparing frozen casseroles and lunches for Lazarus House and assembling "meals in a bag" for those affected by SNAP benefit reductions during the government shutdown. Through these efforts, we teach our children that helping others is an expression of our faith and a way to follow Jesus' example.

Our children were active participants in the life of the church this year. They helped burn palms for Ash

Wednesday, performed a Palm Sunday skit, sang during the Lessons and Carols Advent program, and created "Do Not Fear" lanterns for Christmas Eve. These activities provide opportunities to discuss why we worship and what we believe about God and Jesus.

Our curriculum remains rooted in the Bible. As we hear each lesson's Bible Story, we review which section of the Bible it is from and what it can teach us about the story. We practice locating Bible verses together. Additionally, we enjoyed several family events, including the Family Faith Fair, Easter Eggstravaganza, a foam party for the church's birthday, a trip to Windy Acres Farm, and the Hanging of the Greens.

Finally, we supported our church's future by creating a "Ways to Help" banner and collecting change for the capital campaign. We appreciate the continued support for our Children's Ministry.

Blessings,
Laura Bernabei



Director of Youth Ministries

Like the outside world, 2025 has had its ups and downs within CCoB's youth. Numbers continue to be the major challenge for both high school and middle school youth. To accommodate more high school students, we moved Smallies gatherings to Thursday night (formerly Sunday night). Results of that switch are not what we had hoped. Middle school continues to meet with the elementary kids, as the middle school numbers vary from 0-3 at those gatherings. While the elementary age group continues to grow in numbers, there is hope for higher youth numbers in the future.

Highlights from this year for Smallies: four youth went on an amazing trip to serve through the Appalachian South Folklife Center in Pipestem, WV. They did some work at the ASFC and a church in Bluefield WV, down the street from the historic Hotel Thelma. Smallies also had a pool

party, went to an escape room, helped with the capital campaign by having an impromptu cookie sale, hung the hands for the "we are all in this together" display, had a Thanksgiving feast, and many fellowship gatherings filled with fun, laughter, and growth.

In a world which continues to be divided, changing, and confusing, the youth programs at CCoB continue to be a place where students are heard, embraced for who they are, challenged to reflect and learn, welcomed and encouraged regardless of the number who appears. Everyone needs a place to feel loved and safe as they deepen their faith as they navigate life. I am thankful to be a part of a program which allows for that growth and authenticity for our youth.

Rev. Suzy Daly

Communications Manager



Lent and Easter Schedule at the Congregational Church of Batavia

Ash Wednesday Supper
Wednesday, March 5th
Supper 6 pm, Service 7 pm

Lenten Worship Services
Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, 30,
April 6, 10 - 11 am

Lenten Vespers Worship
Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26,
April 2, 9 - 6:30 pm

Acappella Concert
Sundays, March 10 - 3 pm

Palms Sunday
Sunday, April 16 - Worship 10 - 11 am.

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 17 - Worship 6:30 pm

Good Friday
Friday, April 18 - Worship 6:30 pm

Egstravaganza Easter Event
Saturday, April 19 - 10 am

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 20 - Worship 10 - 11 am

Congregational Church of Batavia
215 Batavia Ave., Batavia IL
630-879-1999 • congregationchurch.org



Sunday, November 23 - Hanging of the Greens
Hot chocolate after the 10 am service, followed by decorating the sanctuary.
Music provided by Henrie and Dave Mammings, 11 AM

Sunday, November 30 - "What Do You Fear?"
Advent Begins
Advent worship, 10:00 AM

Sunday, December 7 - Acappella Concert
"Escape to...A Season of Wonder" 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 14 - Lessons & Carols
Scripture readings and carols for the Advent and Christmas season, 10:00 AM

Thursday, December 18 - Blue Christmas Service
A service for those who acknowledge that the holiday season is not a happy time for them.
Music, children's healing, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 24
Candlelight & Communion Services, both services
3 PM (also available online) and 7 PM

Sunday, December 28 - Breakfast Worship
Bring your favorite breakfast dish to pass for a breakfast and worship in Paxton Hall, 10:00 AM

Sunday, January 4
Eucharist worship, 10:00 AM

Congregational Church of Batavia
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As Communications Manager I work with “**inbound marketing**” and “**outbound marketing**.” **Inbound** concerns what people find when researching a church. This might be what information is found when doing an internet search. For instance, some of the common search terms might be used are “church,” “batavia church,” “churches near me,” etc. On Google, we are usually at the top of a local search, linking to our website. This is based on the strength of our website, interactions with the public, other places we appear on the internet (such as social media.) My responsibility is to make sure our online presence is strong and updated for those who seek information. If using Google’s Chrome browsers, some additional information may be provided about the church location, hours, a description of the church, and access to reviews. In recent years, we’ve been subject to negative reviews. The reviews are not by anyone who has attended our church but spammers who use these reviews to push their own agendas. I usually see these reviews soon after they occur and report them to Google for removal. They are only removed if the review violates content regulations, and not just because it might be unfavorable. Luckily I have been able to have most of these removed.

Other inbound marketing might be word of mouth in the community, and we utilize social media, press releases and the website. The website contains timely matter such as live streams of services, the *Tower*, and *News You Can Use*. All of this adds to the value of our website and helps in the search engine rankings.

Outbound Marketing is sending information out to people. At this time it is a continuation of the work we’ve been doing the last few years. We are using **Welcome Home Batavia** to greet those who have moved to new homes in Batavia, leaving behind a trifold brochure with details about our programs and ministries. These visits are followed with a welcome letter from the church and details about any upcoming events.

Another outreach effort to the community are postcards delivered to Batavia residents via the **USPS Every Door Direct Mail** program which is a low cost method of bulk delivering information. This year we sent out over 22,000 total postcards about our services and programs for Easter and Christmas. With three new developments in Batavia, this mailing list will be growing.

While there are no metrics in place to measure the effectiveness of these efforts, attendance at our services and participation in church activities have increased. All of these efforts combined are used to reach those who might be seeking a church home. None of it is an aggressive “hard-sell,” but a way of letting people know that we’re here, what we represent, and that everyone is welcome.

Much of the work I do is also informing our own congregation of events, needs, and other news within our church.

Lisa Youngdahl, Communications Manager



Connections Team

Because 2025 was not a rummage sale year, the biggest event Connections helped put together was the annual birthday party, this year celebrated with a potluck meal and the usual cakes. That said, Connections stays busy year-round with smaller efforts to connect congregants with each other and our surrounding communities. For instance, Connections coordinates with other ministry teams to help with staffing and inviting participation in other teams' efforts, by offering to help with food or recruit helpers as needed.

Because we've started holding potlucks again and some folks expressed interest, we asked for recipes with the intent of creating a cookbook. However, we only got a couple dozen, so they ended up being included in the annual Advent meditations book.

The one on-going subcommittee of the Connections Team continues to work better than ever: the group of coffee hour servers that Karen Kosky has recruited and scheduled. We now have enough that even if most folks can only help out once a quarter, we're covered.

Jean Deptolla plans to start working with Susan Price to build a database of interests and availabilities, and to work on better communicating with our people (and the community at large as appropriate) about upcoming projects and events that are just plain for fun. We're also always on the lookout for more ideas for ways to get together: game days? Movie nights? Small group dinners? Potlucks and picnics for no reason at all? Christmas caroling next December? Let us know what sounds good to you.

Susan Price



2024 Capital Campaign*

The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:8-9

While claiming that we are at the true "end" of the capital campaign would be a statement for "fools", January 11, 2026, marked Celebration Sunday, the day on which we commemorated the formal end of the pledge-raising phase of the capital campaign and continue with the wind at our backs to realize the gifts that our community in Christ have promised.

And such tailwinds we have! The campaign generated \$1,166,789 in pledges vs. our challenge goal of \$1 million. And to date in early January we have realized more than \$700,000 in those gifts already! Having used \$215,000 of those gifts to retire the construction loan for the boilers, roofs, and solar panel installation, our campaign cash on hand stands at \$372,289.

I'm amazed by these results. In April 2025 when the congregation approved the engagement with Walsh and Associates and we began the campaign in earnest, I frankly thought we would struggle to reach our minimum goal of \$750,000. Boy, was I wrong. God's work through this congregation never ceases to amaze me.

Yet, God also continually places challenges before us to keep us humble. We've encountered some roadblocks in the installation of the solar panels which prevented us from finishing the project in 2025 as we had hoped. At the end of December a 2" pipe that supplies heating water for the educational wing broke underground and began leaking into the boiler room. And around the same time, but in an unrelated incident, the heat exchanger of boiler #1 failed. Our dedicated members are navigating these challenges, and we will overcome them. But they are a reminder that whatever plans we make for ourselves will always be subject to God's will.

In 2026 we will begin in earnest to map out the priority of projects to execute with our campaign funds as we continue to realize the pledged gifts. It will not be boring, and it will likely require even more intense effort than the fund-raising period in 2025. With all of your help and support, we will continue with patience rather than pride to fulfill God's will with the gifts given to us. My co-chair, Ann Alexander, and I are grateful for the many members who worked to make this happen.

Blessings,
Mark Weiss



Facilities Team

The Facilities Team members for 2025 - 2026 are Mark Weiss, Jake DeKoyer, Steve Collins, and Dave Hummel. Karen and Mike Kosky, Mike Palmer and Bill Gunderson are interested in joining the Facilities team this year which is great news. The church custodian is John Halters. We are also thankful for the help we receive from others throughout the year.

The team's responsibilities include:

- Coordinating all required inspections
- Maintaining emergency lights, exit signs
- Replacing light bulbs
- Replacing HVAC filters
- Coordinating HVAC maintenance and repairs
- Carpet spot cleaning and full cleaning.
- Rt. 31 sign management, banner hanging
- Snow removal contract for parking lot
- Shoveling sidewalks and putting down ice melt
- Maintaining the Memorial Garden and assisting with inurnments.
- Weeding, trimming bushes
- Lawn care
- Miscellaneous repairs, painting



New solar panels above Paxton Hall

Boilers

One of the new boilers developed a leak this year. The part has been replaced but we are waiting for the manufacturer to evaluate the part to determine if it will be covered by warranty.

Heat for the Nursery School

One of the pipes that run underground from the boiler room to the school building started leaking this winter. We have hired a plumbing company to replace the 60 year old pipes.

Solar Panels

The solar panels have been installed on the roof over Paxton Hall. They have been tested and work but we are waiting for final approval from the city before they can be used.

The team will also be involved with coordinating and participating in projects for the capital campaign.

Dave Hummel, Facilities Team Leader

Justice and Witness



Pride Parade: On June 8, New England Congregational Church hosted a pancake breakfast and rousing ecumenical service before we joined many like-minded churches to walk in **Aurora's Pride Parade**. We walked behind our CCOB banner and our mini-doors: "GOD'S DOORS ARE WELCOME TO ALL" and handed out colorful stickers to the cheering crowds.



Immigration concerns were a focus of 2025. We joined forces with Outreach for our first project: "**Blessing Boxes**" for **Dia Nuevo Comunidad** (New Day Community Church) in Hanover Park. We filled four cartons with specific food items to welcome families from South America. When we delivered the boxes on June 16, we were greeted with a tour and a great supper of empanadas. Gayle Bridger coordinated the project, including organizing their "Clothes Closet." We plan to continue donating both food and clothing in the future. Pastors Elias Cabarcas and Tracy Smith are son-in-law and daughter of Don and Lynn Smith.

CCOB joined with St. Charles Episcopal and Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva in drafting a letter supporting law enforcement's not cooperating with ICE officials in any illegal or unconstitutional manner. Members of many churches met on a Zoom call July 23 to discuss/approve the letter and determine who should receive it (elected officials, law enforcement, etc.). The letter, signed by many churches and pastors was sent to Kane County law enforcement, mayors, and other elected officials.

Since ICE raids continued to escalate, the justice teams of the same three churches hosted a presentation by a renowned **ACLU** attorney at the Unitarian Church on Oct. 24. Rebecca Glenberg explained **Illinois Trust Act**, and the rights and rules for immigrants and protestors.

Food Drive: As of October 11, our church became the designated drop off site for Batavia. One Saturday each

month from 8:00 until noon, locals can drop off food and supplies in each of the Tri-Cities to be taken to the Congregational Church in Elgin. Volunteers then deliver donations directly to immigrant families in need.

Not limited to immigration concerns, our **Administer Justice Batavia Legal Clinic** continues our mission.

Grant Proposal: Bob Huxtable alerted us to a possible **\$10,000 grant** available to 60 churches. The following is a rough draft of the J&W proposal:

We hope to help those in our area who are struggling or lonely.



We would like to host a monthly **Community Dinner**. This would provide not only good food and fellowship, but a chance to ask "how can we help?". We could be a resource for various services: simple home repair, rides to appointments, etc., as well as providing financial help through gift cards (like gas, groceries, school supplies), and perhaps limited emergency rental assistance. Our expenses would also include the cost of the dinner. If we receive this generous \$10,000 grant, it could be administered by a small committee under the umbrella of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. We haven't heard yet if this plan is a winner.

Interfaith Luncheon: In lieu of our annual **IFTAR Dinner**, due to Mazher Ahmed's health setback, we hosted an informal event on September 21 with the Ahmeds and the **Batavia Islamic Center**.

Fox River Valley Initiative: Our latest efforts are around affordable housing. Several of us have met with mayors and city planners to identify potential sites for development. We are hoping the proposed **River Point** on Rt. 25 will happen. A well-attended event was held November 8 in Elgin, highlighting the desperate need for more affordable, accessible housing. After the presentation, everyone was invited to tour the beautiful **1212 Larkin** to see a success story. We are also trying to get the **Mercy Hospital Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) reopened after the hospital was bought by Prime Health Care, which means the hospital was no longer not-for-profit.**

Ann Alexander, chair, Gayle Bridger, Steve Collins, Jean Deptola, Jennifer Larson Angelini, Heather Hamilton, Shelley Kibbey, Jim Otepka, Sue Price, Jean Stone, Karon Van Gelder

Outreach Ministry Team



Thank you for your generosity! This year we shared over **\$25,231.00** to demonstrate the love of Jesus in our local communities, our nation, and our world. The agencies assisted are:

Local Outreach

Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and Clothes Closet which provides food, non-food household and personal items, and clothing for those individuals and families residing in Batavia and Batavia Township who are in need.

Batavia Apartments which create stable, vibrant, and healthy communities by developing, financing, and operating affordable housing for families, seniors, and people with special needs who lack economic resources.

Hesed House which provides food, clothing, and shelter, and gives people the chance to hope again.

Chip-In Batavia which ensures that students who are facing financial obstacles have their needs met.

HorsePower Therapeutic Riding which offers riding lessons to children and adults with disabilities.

We also provided hundreds of pounds of needed non-perishable food items, household supplies, personal care items, and diapers for neighbors supporting Batavia Apartments, Batavia Food Pantry, and Mutual Ground.

Nearby Outreach

Centro De Informacion (Elgin) which empowers the Latino and immigrant community to integrate effectively.



New Day Presbyterian Church: Along with the Justice and Witness Team, we provided Blessing Boxes for this growing immigrant community.

United Church of Christ

We as a church have supported Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, UCC Wildfire Fund, Back Bay Mission (Biloxi, MS), and The Care and Share fund at CCOB.

Global Outreach

Kay Angel Children's Home (Haiti): We joined with Men's Bible Study to support this long affiliated and vibrant ministry in Haiti.

DSM International Ministries: House of Hope Orphanage (also in Haiti).

Christmas Gift Festival

Thank you for your support. Our Christmas Festival raised over **\$5,500.00**, for Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and Clothes Closet, HESED House, and Batavia Apartments.

Please thank the amazing team members for their hard work: Gayle Bridger, Carol Plamondon, and Lane Severson.

Don Smith and Judy Lutz

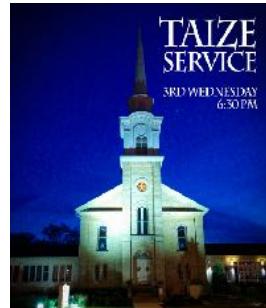




Worship Team

It's been an exciting and productive year as we continue to grow our Service attendance numbers, both in-person and online. We continue to look for new ways to engage visitors and long-time faces and are thankful to those who offer their time and talents throughout the year:

- Decorating Team (Ann Alexander, Leslie LeResche, and Marnie Mamminga) for their creative ideas in visually adding meaning to our services
- A/V team of volunteers (Jason Flaks, Dave Hummel, Ed Plamondon and Karl Deptolla) as well as our Staff (Basil Bevard and Caleb Serano) for making sure slide projection , sound, and streaming all works smoothly
- Worship Leaders (Ann Alexander, Amy Allan, Jen Larson Angelini, Jean Deptolla, Dale Grischow, Rosemary Henders, Bob Huxtable, Nico Lasta, Marnie Mamminga, Tom Mullen, Susan Price, Kristina Shumaker, Jean Stone, Jeff Crane, and Leigh Tracy) for leading us in services
- Vicki Linich, our Music Director, and our faithful Choir members for musical inspiration. It's so great to see some new as well as returning faces
- Organist/Pianist, Lily Li, who inspires us with lovely musical reflections.
- Laura Bernabei and Suzy Daly share their talents and ideas with us
- Pastor Paige who brings all the individual pieces of worship together
- Taizé services led by Susan Price
- Continued efforts to grow the Bell Choir
- lark&laurel for not only their meaningful musical compositions but their musical talents that add so much
- Praise Band 'Mom' Jean Deptolla for resurrecting our CCoB Praise Band



Twice a year Pastor Paige calls us (everyone is welcome) to brainstorm at a long-term planning session using the current year's Lectionary, programs offered by the online source of Sanctified Art and our own musings to develop arcing service themes and suggestions for 'stand-alone' Sundays and activities to complement them. Results for 2025:

Epiphany Season —‘Embodied’ Star Words

Lent —“Everything In Between” — a Sanctified Art product — Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Communion Service, weekly Wednesday Vesper services, Maundy Thursday Communion and Good Friday Services

Easter Season (Easter to Pentecost) Individually focused services including Mother's Day Roses, Confirmation

Summer — Food for Thought' connecting favorite recipes with scripture

Father's Day Ice Cream/Coffee Hour, Church's Birthday

Autumn — “Say What?” - lesser-known Parables of Discipleship World-wide Communion, Reformation Sunday, All

Saints Sunday —
remembering those no longer with us. Gift Festival Sunday- with the Outreach Team ,Thanksgiving Sunday, Stewardship and the Capital Campaign

Advent and Christmas —

“What Do You Fear?” —
created by Sanctified Art —
Hanging of the Greens with a Pizza Party after Sunday Service, Blue Christmas Service, Christmas Eve Services, Breakfast Church



In addition to these long-term planning sessions, the Worship Team meets quarterly (the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom) and the Worship Planning Crew meets weekly on Tuesday.

Judy Jablecki

Decorating Team

Decorating Team: Chairperson Ann Alexander, Leslie LeResche, Marnie Mamminga, Dave Mamminga

January: Christmas decorations were taken down after Epiphany and winter decorations were placed in the windows.

February-March: We continue to re-use years-old material from our decorating storeroom for our decorating endeavors. Each month we added seasonal touches to the windows and Valentine's Day wreaths and shamrock wreaths for St. Patrick's Day were also put up on the outside doors.

April: Holy Week: For Palm Sunday, we decorated the altar and our wooden cross with palms, and palm branches were passed out to the congregation at the service. For Good Friday services, we hung a black cloth on the cross along with the crown of thorns and kept the palms in place as a reminder of Christ's journey. On Easter Sunday, we hung a white cloth on the cross, and the cross was moved to the front steps of the church where members and visitors placed a colorful array of carnations. It truly was a sight to behold and a message of Christ's love for those traveling by on Rt. 31. In addition, we hung spring flower wreaths on all the doors. The sanctuary was filled with Easter Lilies at the altar that had been ordered from Countryside Nursery in Elburn several weeks before.

May-September: Summer wreaths were placed on all the doors. Sanctuary windows were adorned with greenery, flowers, and bird nests.

October-November: The windows were decorated with small pumpkins from our supply cupboard along with colorful fall leaves. More pumpkins and other autumn décor from our supplies were added at the entrances and vestibule, and autumn wreaths were placed on the doors.

Ann created our traditional Cornucopia arrangement for our Thanksgiving altar.

December: Dave and Marnie Mamminga along with grandson Ryan Mamminga and granddaughters Elena, Joy, and Alice Mamminga were able to find and cut down a fresh, very tall tree at the Abbey Brother Farms in Batavia. Dave, Marnie, Ann, and Leslie kept all watered throughout the season. Leslie again ordered (in November) a lovely array of poinsettias from Countryside Nursery in Elburn.

We assembled all the Christmas decorations from the decorating closets for the Hanging of the Greens. With this year's Advent theme of Be Not Afraid, we adorned the window angels with sparkly lanterns that Leslie had made. Hurricane lanterns, red cloths, and greenery were also included in the window decorations.

The advent wreath with candles was placed by the pulpit, and the vintage figures of Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus were placed under the tree. Pine garlands with red bows and wreaths were hung from the balcony, and wreaths were also hung on the pews. Beautiful, fresh pine wreaths with red bows, purchased from the annual church youth fund raiser, were placed on all the church doors.

New red candles were purchased and lit not only for our church services but also for various programs in our sanctuary including the BHS Madrigal singers. The beautiful array of poinsettias graced the altar and stairs along with the Peace sign and the golden angel. The vestibule by the stairs was also decorated with pine branches and angels.

Respectfully submitted by Marnie Mamminga and the decorating team





This is the third year for the Rockin' Retirees, a social group for those from our congregation and the broader community. We meet the third Thursday every month, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in Paxton Hall, and share coffee, donuts, conversation and fellowship. We host from six to eight or more attendees at each meeting. There is no charge, and all are welcome. The group is coordinated by Ellen Huxtable.

Midweek Connections

Due to low interest and attendance, Midweek Connections was disbanded in April 2025. The group offered adult fellowship during the time of the midweek youth programs, and was coordinated by Ellen Huxtable.

The Tower

In 2025, we published eleven issues of our church newsletter, *The Tower*. As in the past, articles were solicited from teams, committees, interest groups, individuals, and staff. Links to the issues were posted on the church website and Facebook as well as in weekly emails. A small number of printed copies were mailed out each month and made available at the church.

Our wonderful group of proofreaders this year has included Laura Bernabei, Anne Eustis, Judy Flury, Barb Mabbs, Lucinda Page, Susan Price, and Jean Stone.

Barb Zillgitt, editor

Men's Bible Study

Our Men's Bible Study group meets on Saturday mornings as we have for over thirty years. We meet through video conferencing; through it we are blessed to discuss and pray with regular participants from Batavia, other suburbs, and from Nova Scotia, Minnesota, Florida, Georgia, and southern Illinois. We have weekly attendance of seven to fourteen men.

We started the year by studying the lectionary readings for each Sunday. Beginning in Lent, we read the UCC Lent Devotional "Into the Deep" followed by a study of I and II Samuel. Next, we read "The Power of Two Way Prayer" by Father Bill W. We ended 2025 with reading "Soon and Very Soon", the UCC Advent Devotional.

In September, we again welcomed Gala Calisto from Kay Angel Children's Home in Jacmel, Haiti, and Doris Frame to talk about the work at Kay Angel. Gala continues to raise six children — four in her family and two others who do not live with them but receive help with their education. She works hard to raise the children to be responsible, caring adults. We remain deeply grateful for Gala and her work, and for Doris Frame who brought this mission to us back in 2010.

Our mission focus continued with our group raising \$1,302 for outreach efforts:

- \$605 (plus \$1,000 from the church's Outreach Team for a total of \$1,605) to Kay Angel
- \$100 to Brehm Preparatory School Foundation in Carbondale, IL. — This school educates students who have learning differences and have not been given the support to be successful in traditional school settings.
- \$266 to the United Church of Christ California Wildfire Relief Fund
- \$331 to the Chicago Presbytery for Dia Nuevo church. This church focuses on the immigrant community
- As we learn, we encourage and support each other by helping each other follow our Lord and Savior. Each week we share our joys and concerns and bring them to God through prayer.

My continued thanks to our co-leaders Don Smith and Leigh Tracy. Our group is blessed by your hard work.

Bob Huxtable



*No matter
where you
are on life's
journey, you
are welcome
here.*

UCC

Women's Connection

The Women's Connection, a book discussion group, meets on the third Sunday of the month at 6:00 in the church library. Members are asked to sign up for a month in which they wish to lead a discussion and then pick the book they want to lead. Selections for discussion in 2025:

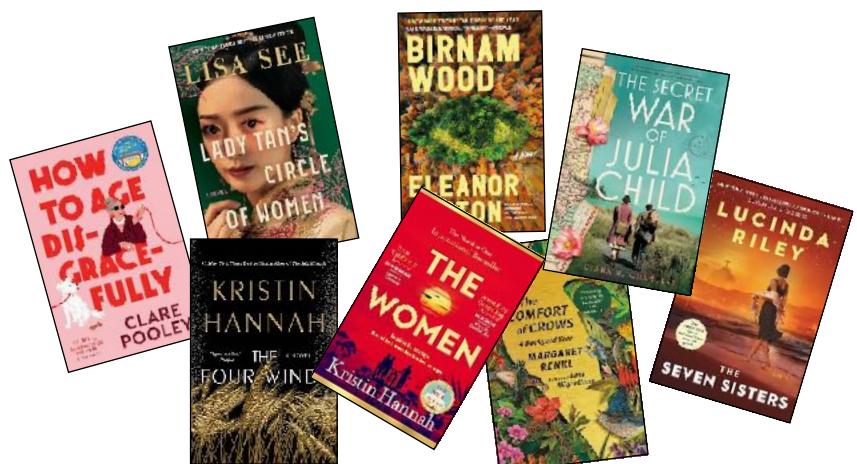
Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See
How to Age Disgracefully by Clare Pooley
Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton
The Women by Kristin Hannah
The Six: the untold story of America's first women astronauts
by Loren Grush
The Seven Sisters by Lucinda Riley
The Secret War of Julia Child by Diana R. Chambers
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
Did Ye Hear Mammy Died? A Memoir by Seamas O'Reilly
The Comfort of Crows: a Backyard Year by Margaret Renkl

Our December meeting is a combination of Christmas treats and the sharing of books we've each enjoyed outside of our discussion group.

We are enjoying several new members who have joined us in the last year. Sadly we also have several members who have become for the most part inactive. Our active members are:

Elsie Ann Cole, Margo Cooper, Anne Eustis, Judy Flury, Sarah Greenhagen, Rosemary Henders, Linda Lanthrum, Judy Lutz, Mary Jane McFee, Carolyn Oke, Lynne Potter, Kristina Shumaker, Cameron Simpson, Lynn Smith, Jean Stone, and Sandy Young

Rosemary Henders





Batavia Nursery School



We have been operating as a license-exempt facility since January 2021. Nothing has changed in our daily operations, with our main requirement being recertification every two years. Requirements have changed this year, but we are in the process of complying. Our current teaching staff include Pam Foelske, who is also the director, Cheryl Mueller, Heather Wheatley, Chris Darby, Shea Bubeck, and Jamie Twitty. Each staff member holds a bachelor's degree, completes 15 hours of continuing education each year and has completed mandated reporter training. There is a staff member that holds a CPR/First Aid certification always onsite.

We are in our 51st year at the Congregational Church. We operate as a not-for-profit preschool, educating children from surrounding communities as well as from Batavia. We have fifty-two families that send their children to us, which translates into fifty-five students enrolled. This is a decrease in enrollment from last year. We have two 3- year-old classes: one meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and the other on Tuesday and Thursday. We have three 4-year-old classes: one meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and the other two meet on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Our final class is our Pre-K class that meets on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Our older classes visit the Batavia Library each month for a story hour and a program. In addition to that visit, we take a field trip once a month, based on the theme we are studying. We also have added two "in house" field trips: a Chicago-based marionette show in December and SciTech in January. We encourage parents to volunteer as chaperones for the out-of-the-building trips which they really enjoy!

BNS participates in outreach programs throughout the school year. Each classroom will collect children's underwear during the month of December that we donate to the Batavia Clothes Closet. Each class will collect food in February that we donate to the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry. We collect monies each month throughout the year when we visit the Batavia Library for story hours. We made that donation in May for the purpose of purchasing additional children's books. We have "reconnected" with the Elderday Center next door, with visits and singing songs for the clients.

Our enrichment and extended day programs are very popular with our families. We have done extra work in preparing these programs with different crafts/activities as we have many students repeating the class during their second (or third) year with us. We have added yet another new class this year based on a fun book series about the food groups. These programs are in addition to our summer camp program, another very popular program. This past summer, we offered eight weeks during the months of June and July.

We continually strive to improve the quality of preschool education that we provide. As teachers, we are proud to model Christian values to these children daily. The expectations for kindergarten have become much higher, and we are pleased to be a preschool that prepares children for this from an early age.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Foelske



Boy Scouts



The Congregational Church of Batavia is the chartering organization of Boy Scout Troop 43. 2025 marked the 53rd consecutive year the church has charted this troop. The troop meets on Monday evenings from 7-8:15 p.m. in Paxton Hall or the Pine Room. Approximately 20-25 scouts attend each of the meetings.

Each meeting begins with an opening flag ceremony and adult and scout announcements. Then, scouts participate in one or more activities such as planning for upcoming campouts, checking and cleaning equipment, and developing scout skills. 2025 included excursions like frisbee golf, biking, and bowling in place of our usual meeting.

Troop 43 likes to camp every month when possible. In 2025, campouts included:

- January: Annual skiing trip to Cascade Mountain in Wisconsin — an annual favorite
- February: Cabin camping at Camp Sullivan, with an Underground Railroad Hike
- March: Cabin camping at Johnsons Mound - oldest Kane County Forest Preserve site, celebrating 100 years in 2025, even if the glacial kame is around 10,000 years old
- April: Grant's Pilgrimage in Galena — no storms to stop us this year!
- May: Kankakee State Park for Kayaking — great practice for high adventure
- June: Summer camp at Owasippe, in Twin Lake, MI, the oldest Scout camp in the US
- July: High adventure took a portion of the Troop to Northern Tier for canoeing and growth
- August: Tent camping at Devil's Lake in Baraboo, WI.
- September: Starved Rock camping cancelled due to many Scouts resuming school activities

- October: Tent camping at Feast of the Hunters' Moon in Indiana; favorite festival with reenactments of a French trading post
- November: Troop 43 hosted all Batavia troops with a weekend fire vigil at the VFW in Batavia. Scouts set up in rain Friday night, woke to snow Sunday morning — some Scouts couldn't help but sing Christmas carols while packing and cleaning up!
- December: Training, planning, and electronics one-night indoor campout in Batavia

Each year the troop conducts two fundraisers to cover its modest budget, which includes funds for badges, campout and activity supplies, website fees, and trailer maintenance. The scouts continued to pursue fundraising on two fronts. One approach involved soliciting \$10 donations for creating meals for Lazarus House and Hesed House. The other approach involved selling Troop 43's "Campfire in a Bottle" hot sauce, delicious exclusive designed by the Scouts! In 2025, Scouts reached out to friends and family per usual, but also conducted several successful storefront sales, in downtown Batavia and Warrenville, the two towns most of our scouts live in. Our careful budgeting over the last few years enabled us to buy eight needed new tents and commit to three years of financial support to the church as part of the Capital Campaign.

One Scout earned the Eagle Scout rank in 2025, at only 16 years old: Nate Grohe.

The "key 3" adult leaders in 2024 remain Frank Downey as Scoutmaster, Alison Duray as Committee Chair, and Matt Wicks as Chartered Organization Representative.

Troop 43 appreciates the continued support of the Congregational Church of Batavia.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Wicks
 Troop 43 Chartered Organization Representative



Appendix



Clerk's Report

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BATAVIA 2025 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Members of record December 31, 2024: 415

Received by confirmation: 3

Received by affirmation, transfer, or confession: 7

Total increase 2025: 10

Loss by death: 2 (note: one death in 2024 omitted in last report)

Loss by transfer or request: 0

Total decrease 2025: 2

Members of Record December 31, 2025: 423

New Members:

Amy Allan

Jennifer Larson

Carole Larson

Peter Barsch

Annie Barsch

Michael Palmer

Emily Palmer

Michael John Larsen Angelini

Charlotte Annmarie Angelini

Kaden Justus Leman

Deaths/Funerals:

Claudia Goggiin

John Sprague-Williams (2024)

Baptisms:

Michael John Larson Angelini

Kaden Justus Leman

Beckham James Sloan

Marriages:

Amy Allan and Michael Graves

Date : 01/12/2026
Time : 5:04:16 PM

**Congregational Church of Batavia
Balance Sheet
December 2025**

Page : 1

Accounts

	Assets
Current Assets	
Operating Account Funds	\$110,035.92
Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$74,454.13
Heritage to Horizon Campaign	\$387,495.34
Permanently Restricted Funds	<u>\$127,895.01</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$699,880.40</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$699,880.40</u></u>
<hr/>	
Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Payroll Withheld	
Taxes Payable - Operating Fund	(\$3,546.50)
Other Current Liabilities	<u>(\$731.98)</u>
Total Payroll Withheld	<u>(\$4,278.48)</u>
Temporary Holding Account	\$24,191.69
Prepaid Pledges	<u>\$37,000.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$56,913.21</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
1-8396-000 - Sabbatical Provision	<u>\$7,575.80</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u><u>\$7,575.80</u></u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>\$64,489.01</u></u>
Fund Principal	
1-2999-000 - Fund Principal -Church Operations	\$64,937.99
3-2999-000 - Fund Principal - ToGather	(\$9.68)
4-2999-000 - Fund Principal -Roof & Renovation	\$25.00
6-2999-000 - Fund Principal- Heitage to Horizon	<u>\$387,470.34</u>
Total Fund Principal	<u>\$452,423.65</u>
Restricted Funds	
Total Temporary Restricted	\$55,072.73
Total Permanent Restricted	<u>\$127,895.01</u>
Total Restricted Funds	<u><u>\$182,967.74</u></u>
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds	<u><u>\$699,880.40</u></u>

Date : 01/12/2026
Time : 5:09:01 PM

Congregational Church of Batavia
Financial Results Overview
Fund: Operating Fund
December 2025

Page : 1

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)
Revenues						
Tithes & Offerings	\$20,908	\$20,140	\$390,564	\$389,110	\$378,830	\$389,110
Other Revenues	\$4,714	\$6,861	\$56,285	\$68,535	\$80,658	\$68,535
Total Revenues	\$25,622	\$27,001	\$446,849	\$457,645	\$459,488	\$457,645
Expenses						
Personnel						
Minister	\$11,988	\$11,995	\$141,439	\$143,941	\$139,585	\$143,941
Director C.E. & Youth	\$1,771	\$1,711	\$20,251	\$20,532	\$19,616	\$20,532
Director Children's Ministry	\$3,078	\$2,587	\$34,707	\$31,042	\$29,956	\$31,042
Music Ministry	\$4,072	\$4,177	\$49,970	\$50,120	\$47,942	\$50,120
Other Personnel	\$3,262	\$5,663	\$43,472	\$67,951	\$57,710	\$67,951
Payroll Expenses - Tax and Fee	\$1,457	\$1,533	\$17,531	\$18,396	\$17,769	\$18,396
Staff Retirement Matching	\$175	\$128	\$1,276	\$1,539	\$1,606	\$1,539
Human Resources Expenses	\$0	\$25	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$300
Total Personnel	\$25,804	\$27,818	\$308,647	\$333,821	\$314,184	\$333,821
Ministry Teams						
Evangelism	(\$117)	\$0	\$662	\$0	\$2,909	\$0
Worship & Service	\$878	\$467	\$5,678	\$5,600	\$3,521	\$5,600
Justice & Witness	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,300	\$2,000	\$2,300
Stewardship	\$0	\$25	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$300
Connections	\$403	\$112	\$2,914	\$1,350	\$578	\$1,350
Outreach	\$2,000	\$667	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
Total Ministry Teams	\$3,164	\$1,271	\$28,254	\$26,550	\$26,008	\$26,550
Faith Formation	\$183	\$475	\$3,297	\$5,700	\$3,551	\$5,700
Communications	\$0	\$978	\$4,851	\$11,740	\$8,200	\$11,740
Pastoral Care	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15	\$0
Buildings & Grounds						
Maintenance	\$4,038	\$2,783	\$28,841	\$29,400	\$35,251	\$29,400
Total Buildings & Grounds	\$4,038	\$2,783	\$28,841	\$29,400	\$35,251	\$29,400
General Office Expenses	\$1,934	\$1,092	\$14,776	\$13,100	\$12,638	\$13,100
Finance	\$1,991	\$4,300	\$56,790	\$51,600	\$44,721	\$51,600
Total Expenses	\$37,114	\$38,718	\$445,455	\$471,911	\$444,567	\$471,911
Net Total	(\$11,492)	(\$11,716)	\$1,394	(\$14,266)	\$14,921	(\$14,266)

Congregational Church of Batavia
Summary of Restricted Accounts - Portrait
Fund: Operating Fund
December 2025

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Ending Balance
Temporary Restricted				
Temporary Flow Through Accts				
Faith Formation				
1-8026-000 - Adult Mission Trip	\$214.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$214.37
1-8030-000 - Youth Child Sponsor	(\$107.90)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$107.90)
Youth Activities				
1-8075-000 - Youth Mission Trip	(\$3,063.68)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$3,063.68)
1-8080-000 - Youth Fundraisers	\$1,603.57	\$690.00	\$30.00	\$2,263.57
Total Youth Activities	(\$1,460.11)	\$690.00	\$30.00	(\$800.11)
Total Faith Formation	(\$1,353.64)	\$690.00	\$30.00	(\$693.64)
Outreach				
1-8240-000 - Neighbors in Need	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
1-8250-000 - Christmas Fund	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
1-8262-000 - Christmas Gift Fair	\$5,505.00	\$900.00	\$750.00	\$5,655.00
Total Outreach	\$5,505.00	\$4,100.00	\$750.00	\$8,855.00
Miscellaneous				
1-8377-000 - Men's Bible Study	\$20.04	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$30.04
1-8380-000 - Christian Fellowship	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60.00
1-8410-000 - Holiday Decorations	\$30.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.15
Total Miscellaneous	\$110.19	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$120.19
Total Temporary Flow Through Accts	\$4,261.55	\$4,800.00	\$780.00	\$8,281.55
Temp. Rest. - Designated Use				
Faith Formation				
1-8025-000 - Adult Education	\$2,789.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,789.95
1-8045-000 - Childrens Activities	\$2,853.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,853.39
Youth Activities				
1-8065-000 - Youth Discretionary Fund	\$6,014.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,014.54
1-8067-000 - Youth Terry Lewis Memorial Fund	\$1,383.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,383.26
Total Youth Activities	\$7,397.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,397.80
Total Faith Formation	\$13,041.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,041.14
Evangelism				
1-8100-000 - Discretionary Fund	(\$323.59)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$323.59)
1-8105-000 - Building Sign	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Total Evangelism	(\$123.59)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$123.59)
Facilities				
1-8127-000 - Building Maintenance Fund	\$1,971.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,971.34
1-8130-000 - Organ Fund	\$2,152.69	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$2,652.69
1-8364-000 - Memorial Garden	\$3,079.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,079.38
Total Facilities	\$7,203.41	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$7,703.41
Memorials				
1-8350-000 - Memorials	\$22,807.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,807.29
Total Memorials	\$22,807.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,807.29
Miscellaneous				
1-8355-000 - Care and Share Fund	\$2,680.01	\$250.00	\$948.76	\$1,981.25
1-8360-000 - Justice and Witness Group	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
1-8381-000 - Women's Bible Study	(\$23.12)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$23.12)
1-8384-000 - Consultant	(\$71.16)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$71.16)
1-8385-000 - Staff Gifts	\$40.00	\$1,940.00	\$30.00	\$1,950.00
1-8387-000 - Undesignated	(\$358.05)	\$0.00	\$2,757.75	(\$3,115.80)
Total Miscellaneous	\$2,337.68	\$2,190.00	\$3,736.51	\$791.17
Worship				
1-8405-000 - Choir	\$2,571.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,571.76
Total Worship	\$2,571.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,571.76
Total Temp. Rest. - Designated Use	\$47,837.69	\$2,690.00	\$3,736.51	\$46,791.18
Total Temporary Restricted	\$52,099.24	\$7,490.00	\$4,516.51	\$55,072.73

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Congregational Church of Batavia
Summary of Restricted Accounts - Portrait
Fund: Operating Fund
December 2025

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Accounts	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Ending Balance
Permanent Restricted				
Endowments				
Christian Education				
1-9000-000 - Carney Hawes	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00
1-9005-000 - Gustafson Bequest	\$3,117.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,117.06
1-9010-000 - Nancy Murphy	\$3,553.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,553.00
1-9015-000 - Peterson Estate	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
1-9020-000 - Anonymous	\$9,125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,125.00
1-9025-000 - W. Smails	\$310.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$310.00
Total Christian Education	\$25,605.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,605.06
Outreach				
1-9050-000 - Outreach Fund	\$6,540.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,540.00
Total Outreach	\$6,540.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,540.00
Facilities				
1-9055-000 - Facilities	\$13,913.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,913.36
Total Facilities	\$13,913.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,913.36
UC Fund Investment Results				
1-9099-000 - UC Fund Investment Results	\$81,836.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$81,836.59
Total UC Fund Investment Results	\$81,836.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$81,836.59
Total Endowments	\$127,895.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$127,895.01
Total Permanent Restricted	\$127,895.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$127,895.01

