



Congregational
Church of Batavia

THE TOWER

Congregational Church of Batavia

United Church of Christ

21 South Batavia Avenue, Batavia, IL 60510

April 2026

630-879-1999

office@congregationalchurch.org

congregationalchurch.org

ucc.org



Join us for worship
every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
in-person or online.

What's Happening?

April 2 — Maundy Thursday*

April 3 — Good Friday*

April 4 — Family Easter Event*

April 5 — Easter*

April 26 — Empathy Circles

May 31 — Empathy Circles

*See related article

He is
RISEN

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

From our vice moderator

This time of year always reminds me of the familiar saying, “April showers bring May flowers.” As the snow melts, the sunshine extends our days, and the earth warms, may this spring bring joy to your heart. April showers cleanse the air and nourish the beauty of those May flowers, ready to burst into color. New possibilities await us as we enter a season of growth.

Just like the eclectic array of colors in those May flowers, our church family is a beautiful bouquet of people with different stories, talents, careers, passions, and persuasions that make CCoB an amazing place! As we bring our full selves into community, we belong and have the joy of helping others know they belong too!

In closing, I'd like to share a poem with you. A few years ago, while I was on a walk, I noticed this adorable little daffodil holding its head up after a late snowfall. I captured this picture and came home to write a poetic reflection.



Ode to the Tiny Snow-laden Daffodil

April 16, 2020

*Beauty adorned with perseverance
Burdened reality, yet resilient still
More grit than the present weight can
suppress
The cold echoes of winter
cannot quiet the relentless hope
of an assured spring to come.*

May God's peace fill your heart with joy this spring,
Amy Allen, Vice Moderator



*The very first Easter taught us
this: that life never ends and
love never dies.*

Kate McGahan

Connections Team



Welcome to spring! I find that getting ready for the warmer weather tends to make me want to rearrange my home ... and that, in turn, makes me impatient with things that no longer fit my life, whether clothes that no longer fit my body or lifestyle, kitchen gadgets I don't actually use, or hobbies I decided I'm just over.

That makes spring the perfect time for a rummage sale, and this year, being two years since our last one, means we will be joining the Batavia-wide sales the first weekend in May.

We will start collecting items after Easter. If you have large items to donate, or even just a lot of smaller stuff that you need help with, let me know, Susannprice@gmail.com or 630-362-6980, and we can arrange for pickup.

And if you need help figuring out how to declutter, I can help with that too.

Susan Price for Connections Team

Send your May Tower articles to bzillgitt685@gmail.com by Tuesday, April 21.



Flowers! Flowers! Flowers! Flowers!

The flower chart for altar flowers is calling your name. Gardens will soon be in bloom. Please consider choosing a Sunday to provide a bouquet for the altar. You can find the 2026 sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway as you enter from the parking lot.

Worship Ministry Team



It seems like Ash Wednesday was only last week, and yet Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 29, 10:00 am - "The Good News is — inspiring us to act"

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 6:30 pm - "The Good News is — even Judas gets his feet washed"

We will meet in Paxton Hall and begin by sharing a light offering of fruit, vegetables, dips, and cheese as we begin the service that will include a symbolic washing of hands and sharing the sacrament of communion around the table. If you can, please bring a bowl of fruit, veggies, hummus, or other dip to share. We ask only that you do not mix different fruits in the same bowl or plate. Don't have time? Your presence is all that is required.

Good Friday: April 3, 12:00 pm Calvary Episcopal Church — Sponsored by the Batavia Ministerial Association, this annual service is for the entire community

6:30 pm in our sanctuary - "The Good News is Revealed through nonviolence"

This is a reflective service of meditation

Easter Sunday: April 5, 10:00 am — "The Good News is alive in the world"

Join us for a joyful service with Communion and the creation of our annual Living Cross outside the front of the church.

...and then we celebrate "Love is Alive" in the days leading to Pentecost while exploring the scriptures of John.



Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life.

Janine di Giovanni



Justice and Witness

Now that the month of Ramadan is over, we obviously weren't able to host the annual Iftar Dinner with Mazher and Hamid Ahmed and the Batavia Islamic Center. Mazher is still not well enough to help organize the event, much less provide her amazing and delicious array of Indian dishes. We continue to pray for her healing, and hope to find another occasion to foster interfaith fellowship later in the year.

Fox River Valley Initiative: Good news on the affordable housing front. The Batavia Plan Commission unanimously approved the revised plans for the River Point Project at 400 South River Street. It will have 72 units of workforce housing — utilizing a mix of private equity, low-income tax credits, and conventional mortgage financing. The City Council approved the project at the February meeting. A final TIF redevelopment agreement will be reviewed by the Council at a future date.

FRVI is also working to find a way to get the for-profit Prime Health Care to reopen the Crisis Stabilization Unit. For two years the state-of-the-art CSU was providing a safe place for treating anyone over 18 who was suffering from a mental health emergency for 24 hours. Prime Health is the company that bought Ascension Mercy Hospital a year ago. The CSU has been shut down since then.

Ann Alexander, J&W chair



The Outreach Ministry would like to thank all the people who donated to the “Blessing Boxes” for Dia Nuevo church in Hanover Park. Comunidad Dia Nuevo is a Spanish-Speaking worshipping community of the Presbytery of Chicago comprised of first-generation immigrants from Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and other Spanish speaking countries. We were able to provide eight boxes of a variety of food items that make up the staples most often found in their cooking. The church was very appreciative of our donations.

In April we are going to be collecting new socks and underwear for the clothes closets at Dia Nuevo. The church serves both adults and children, so all sizes are welcome. You may leave the items in the back of Paxton Hall where there will be a table set up to receive the items. Thank you in advance. We are blessed to be part of such a giving and generous church.

For further information contact: Gayle Bridger, 630-220-8110.

The Outreach Ministry Team is seeking additional input for how we can provide new or additional outreach ministry from our congregation.

Send your ideas to the Outreach Team Co-Leaders:

Judy Lutz judy.lutz@comcast.net

Don Smith teach86@aol.com

Thank you for your already amazing support.



Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

Pope John Paul II



Troop 43



Greetings from Troop 43! March has been filled with a series of unique happenings.

Our first meeting of the month included the Order of the Arrow election. OA is Scouting America's honor society, and we were happy to elect three more Scouts to the group. They will have further steps to be inducted, but we are proud to see them pass the first step.

This month our overnight excursion was still indoors and only one night, but the Scouts loved overnighing in a real moored WWII submarine in Wisconsin. Even those that loaded themselves into torpedo bays would do it again!

Court of Honor on March 16 saw at least one of nearly all ranks advance. We're so proud of our Scouts enthusiastic ongoing learning.

While the end of this month has spring break, we are also seeing our first Congregational Church of Batavia Eagle Scout project begin as Kye Hill starts to replace and refurbish the fencing around the church's dumpsters, making them prettier and more functional.

Please help get the word out about our troop. We meet from 7-8:15 in Paxton Hall on most Monday evenings. We welcome boys ages 10-16 to visit a meeting and consider joining! Please see <https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop43Batavia/Index.htm> for more information



Children & Youth Ministries



Summer Adventures

We are excited to announce that our Wednesday evening program for elementary and middle school students is being extended through the summer! While originally scheduled to end on May 6, we have decided to continue the fun with a series of Summer Adventures.

We will keep the time from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

For these summer sessions, parents and siblings of all ages are welcome to join us. Please note that unless otherwise specified, food will not be provided; however, everyone is encouraged to bring their own snacks or meals.

Our summer dates are as follows:

May 20
June 3 & 17
July 1, 15, & 29
August 12 & 26



Most events will be held off-site, though a few may take place at the church. A finalized calendar will be available in mid-April.

The school year Wednesday program meets on April 8, 22 and May 6.



Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless.

Charles M. Crowe

Celebrate!



April Birthdays

Desmond Daunheimer	1
Benjamin Mahler	1
Paige Vanko	1
Vicki Woolley	1
Lauren Limbrick	4
Ann Alexander	7
Jason Flaks	7
Brooke Freeman	7
Gaye Peterson	12
Paige Wolfanger	12
Nathan Huxtable	15
Nathan Limbrick	16
Aidan Osterby	18
Sue DeKoyer	19
Sarah Linde	20
Spencer Clanton	21
Bridget Kosky	22
Susan Cromwell	23
Shane Khanishu	23
Leslie LeResche	24
Caleb Serrano	24
Penny Angelini	25
Michael LeResche	25
Carl Sindelar	25
Linda Lanthrum	26
Emmett Lasta	27
Drake Daunheimer	28
Lucinda Page	28
Laura Bernabei	30
Eliana Flaks	30
Vivian Flaks	30

April Anniversaries

Liz & Tom Van Cleave	5
Lynnea & Bob Van Dame	3

Family Easter Activities Easter Saturday, April 4

We will be hosting a drop-in morning of Easter fun in Paxton Hall between **9:30 and 11:00 a.m.** Activities will include crafts, games, and a sharing of the Easter story. Please feel free to come and go as your schedule allows and to invite friends.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Batavia Nursery School

“April showers bring May flowers...” We are ready for spring weather to arrive so we can get back out on the playground. After our March weather, we have quite a bit of cleaning up to do!

We made a fun addition to our Community Helpers unit at the end of March with a visit from Officer Webb from the Batavia Police Department along with her K-9, River. The kids enjoyed listening to how a dog can help the police in a variety of different ways. This month will bring the baby animal unit, and the older classes will again be going to Primrose Farm. This is an amazing working farm run by the St. Charles Park District. The kids will get to see what really goes on during a morning visit, get to pet many of the animals, and learn fun facts about them. The visit will end with a wagon ride out into the fields pulled by a tractor. Fingers crossed for good weather on that day!

We have added a new enrichment class for the month of April based on the food group book series by Jory John (*The Big Cheese*, *The Good Egg*) and the sign up was popular. A good way to end enrichment classes for this year!

We have added a new spring fundraiser this year that runs from April 7-28. Forms are available outside of the church office and information will be provided in your weekly news sent out by the office. We have partnered with Windy Acres Farm and feel that it will be something different than our fall fundraiser.

We do still have openings in our classes for fall if you come across a family looking for a preschool — thank you for passing our name along!

Pam Foelske, Director



Egg hunts are proof that your children can find things when they really want.

Anon

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

We come together on Zoom to catch up, pray, and study a book. If you are interested, please be in touch with the office, or just follow this [link](#) on Wednesday morning.

We would love to have you join us!

Men's Bible Study

Saturday, 8:00 a.m., on Google Meet

We welcome all men to join us for discussion and prayer as we come together in unity and grow in our journey with Christ. Our study includes books of the Bible and Christian books recommended by members. Men who desire to learn more about the Bible and our faith are welcome. Please email Bob Huxtable at rocketjs59@gmail.com for more information and the meeting link.

Pastor: Paige Wolfanger

Director of Children's Ministries:

Laura Bernabei

Director of Youth Ministries: Suzy Daly

Director of Music: Vicki Linich

Office Manager: Bernadine Matthews

Communications Manager: Lisa

Youngdahl

Organist: Lily Li

AV Manager: Basil Bevard

Batavia Nursery School Director:

Pam Foelske

Janitorial Service: John Halters

Nursery Attendants:

Megan Behary & Christy Roberts

Council:

Moderator— Jennifer Larson Angelini

Vice Moderator — Amy Allan

Treasurer — Annie Barsch

Clerk — Jean Deptolla

Members-at-Large —

Judy Jablecki • Jeff Crane

Connections: Susan Price

Decorating: Ann Alexander

Facilities: Dave Hummel

Finance:

Chair — Lynne Potter

Treasurer — Annie Barsch

Financial Secretary — Matt Wicks

Ellen Field • Larry Grant • Becky Hall

Sarah Greenhagen McCrea • Lane

Severson

Justice & Witness: Ann Alexander

Outreach: Judy Lutz • Don Smith

Worship: Judy Jablecki

Archivist: Larry Grant

Systems Administrator: Phil Woolley

Tower Editor: Barb Zillgitt

Women's Connection

Sunday, April 19, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Church library



Mary Jane McFee and Sandy Young will lead a discussion of *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen* by Susan Gilmore.

If you have any questions about this book discussion group, call Rosemary Henders, 630-308-9269.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

*United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace,
we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.
We are the United Church of Christ.*



4794
local churches in
the US



773,500
members &
counting



10,000
authorized clergy
leaders



300
global partnerships

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ is comprised of roughly the northern half of the state of Illinois, from the border with Wisconsin on the north to a line slightly south of the state capital of Springfield. The state of Illinois is the fifth largest state in the United States containing Chicago, the third largest US city.

The 198 churches of the Illinois Conference range from the largest UCC congregation in the nation — Trinity UCC in Chicago — to numerous small rural churches far removed from the large urban area of Chicago.

The Fox Valley Association is 44 churches strong. It stretches from the western and northern suburbs of Chicago to the rolling hills of the Fox River Valley and down into the fastest growing communities in the Chicago area. Its unique blend of city life, established suburbs, and growing communities bring people of all walks of life to the UCC congregations in its area.

Information taken from the [Illinois Conference](#) website and [ucc.org](#).



*If Easter says anything to us today,
it says this: You can put truth in a
grave but it won't stay there.*



Clarence W. Hall