



Congregational  
Church of Batavia

# THE TOWER

*Congregational Church of Batavia*

*United Church of Christ*

*21 South Batavia Avenue, Batavia, IL 60510*

July 2025

630-879-1999

[office@congregationalchurch.org](mailto:office@congregationalchurch.org)

[congregationalchurch.org](http://congregationalchurch.org)

[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)



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

The theme for the summer  
is "Food For Thought."

## What's Happening?

August 1 — Brainstorming  
session\*

August 10 — Church's birthday  
celebration\*

Foam Party\*

August 26 — *Tower* articles due

September 10 — Wednesday  
Evening at Windy Acres\*

\*See related article



## Church Office Hours

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

Celebrating  
190 years!



*CCoB began as a Presbyterian church in 1835. It became Congregational in 1845 because the national Presbyterian Church would not condemn slavery.*



## Church Life

On May 4, we celebrated the baptism of **Michael John Larson Angelini and Kaden Justus Leman**.

Also on May 4, **Michael John Larson Angelini, Kaden Justus Leman, and Charlotte Annmarie Angelini** were confirmed.

## ACTION PLAN

Several times each year staff and members of the worship team meet with Pastor Paige to map out themes for the coming months. Our next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, August 1. You are invited to join us for this brainstorming session as we make plans for Sunday services and related activities for the fall, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.



### Looking for summer coffee helpers!

If you'd like a fairly low-commitment way to make your fellow worshippers happy, why not sign up for coffee hour setup? Brewing three thermoses of coffee takes about fifteen minutes.

While they're brewing, you set out the cups and extras (cream, sugar, etc. along with tea and hot water). Providing extra snacks is purely optional.

Talk with Karen Kosky, or leave a message with the office if you're interested.

## From Pastor Paige

### The Church of the Open Door

Have you ever been church shopping? I mean, have you ever found yourself walking into a brand new church for the first time...not knowing anyone, or what the music will be like, or if they stand or sit or kneel to pray? It can be pretty intimidating; downright frightening actually. Which is part of the reason a lot of people don't do it.

That's why we here at CCoB make it part of our mission to go out to our community: at the Farmer's Market, the Block Party, Bat Fest, and the list goes on. It may seem like we are just having a good time chatting with neighbors, doing crafts with kids, bouncing on inflatables...but this is all part of our mission and ministry as well. Because when we do this, our neighbors get to know us a little... our faces, our names, our spirit of welcome and joy. And then, when they are maybe looking for a church...for a wedding, a baptism, a funeral, they might remember that the Congregational Church of Batavia is a friendly place...not so very frightening after all. And they might take that courageous step to walk in our open door.

Friends, Sunday, August 31, is Batavia's annual Block Party. And once again, we have been invited to be a part of the celebration, to provide a fun and safe space for children and families. So we will be there with inflatable slides, stickers, and Velcro axe throwing. But mostly, we'll be there with smiles, and listening ears, and kind hearts. Think about signing up for a shift. It's one of the bigger events we do, and we need your help to throw the doors of our church open wide. Keep your eyes and ears open for the sign up, and consider using your gifts and talents to create a welcoming space for our neighbors. Because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome with us. And we mean it.



Whoever you are and  
wherever you are on  
life's journey,  
you are welcome here!



*The 1902 constitution called for the "unfermented juice of the grape" to be used in communion.*

## Connections



### GROWING THE SOUND TEAM!

Each Sunday we have a small group of sound soldiers who make sure that microphones are on and working and that the sound is going to the live video feed, so that folks in the building and watching online can hear the service. Over time this team has gotten a little smaller and some of our volunteers are not as available. And every so often we have a Sunday when someone turns the system on, and we hope for the best. We would like to make that better!

We need to grow our team. If you are interested in learning how to work the sound board, we have people to teach you! If you already know how and can volunteer either on a regular basis or just every so often, we would love to have you! Please contact Bernie at [office@congregationalchurch.org](mailto:office@congregationalchurch.org) or fill out this quick form: [Sound Team Volunteers](#)

Send your September  
Tower articles to  
[bzillgitt685@gmail.com](mailto:bzillgitt685@gmail.com) by  
Tuesday, August 26.

### We need your recipes!

The Connections Team project for the fall is to create a CCOB cookbook. This is our follow-on to this summer's "Food for Thought" sermon series, and the recipe collection officially kicks off with the potluck picnic for the church birthday party this month. Of course, you're welcome to turn in your recipe(s) even before that. But if you're planning on bringing a dish to the picnic, how about bringing the recipe for whatever you bring as well? We're looking for all categories of recipes: appetizers to desserts, slow cooked or quick prep, and favorite family snacks as well as main dishes. Right now, no-cook sounds good, what with the hot weather! However, fall is coming, and soups, stews, casseroles and roasts will hold a lot more appeal.

And, when you write/type up your recipe, we'd love to have a sentence or two about what this recipe means to you and your family, or a favorite memory associated with it. Was it handed down from your parents or grandparents? Does it reflect your ethnic background? Or was it something you came across on a vacation or at a friend's and realized you wanted to be able to make it yourself? The recipe that got your kids to eat broccoli? That time you were missing an ingredient or forgot to add it and whether the recipe still worked?

You can drop recipes at the church office or email them to [susanneprice@gmail.com](mailto:susanneprice@gmail.com). This should be a fun project, so make sure to get your favorite recipes included (please give citation to cookbook source if relevant). And if you'd like to help assemble the book, let me know that too.

*Susan Price, Connections chair*



*The steeple blew down in a storm in 1877 and wasn't replaced until 1974.*





## **BATAVIA** **Interfaith Food Pantry** **and Clothes Closet**

The Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry is in need of food and personal care items. Please consider donating to help our neighbors in need. Donations can be placed in the shopping carts at the front entrance of the church.

Items needed include:

- Pasta • Spaghetti sauce • Instant coffee • Canned chicken
- Canned kidney beans • Refried beans • Beef stew
- Ramen noodles • Canned pears
- Tissues • Paper towels
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes • Tampons and pads



## **More CCoB Trivia**

- The original part of the building is constructed from locally quarried limestone.
- In 1983, Helen Thelin became the first woman moderator at CCoB.
- Rev. Stephen Peet (1852-1856) was an ardent abolitionist and a founder of the Chicago Theological Seminary.
- In the 1800s, pew seats were available for purchase or rent.

## **Birthday Celebration**

Join us in celebrating our church birthday at our **Taste of CCoB Potluck on Sunday, August 10, 3:00-7:00 p.m.**

Some of the best times at CCoB are centered around music and food, especially pot luck meals. Entertainment by Acapellago, lark & laurel, and Averling will begin at 3:00 p.m. We'll pause around 4:30 for a potluck meal and then resume with more music and a foam party for all ages.



We invite everyone to bring a favorite main or side salad, casserole or other main dish, appetizer, any other side dishes, or a dessert. Music, beverages, and birthday cake will be provided! Bring your friends!

To help us plan for setup, please let Susan Price ([susanneprice@gmail.com](mailto:susanneprice@gmail.com)) know what you're planning to bring by Sunday, July 27.



## **Troop 43**



Greetings from Troop 43! July is quiet for some of our Scouts and beyond, filled with activities for others.

On June 30, we celebrated our Scouts' many achievements from the previous quarter at our Court of Honor ceremony. We kicked off at Batavia High School getting pictures with Nate Grohe's finished Eagle Project of four new BHS marching band uniform carts. Then, back in Paxton Hall and because it was following summer camp, there were LOTS of advancements and badges to be awarded. We had a guest speaker from Three Fires Council tell us about the triennial National Jamboree, like a super-amped up summer camp with 10s of thousands of Scouts, and at which Frank Downey and some Scouts will be representing us in 2026. We also enjoyed pizzas and good company to round out a packed evening.

July 14 four Scouts and four adults (3 of which are eagled, former Troop 43 Scouts) left for Northern Tier and their high adventure. They spent 10 days canoeing and hiking through remote wilderness of Minnesota at the Canadian border. As they are only wrapping up as of this writing, we'll have to share the details next month.

Those Scouts who did not go to Northern Tier spent July 21st's meeting on a bike ride around the Fox River, finishing at the Batavia Creamery for refreshing treats.

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.



*Two of our members were excommunicated. Really!*

# Celebrate!

## August Birthdays

Scott Schafer	1
Bryn Nelson	3
Harrison Schneider	3
Irene Crane	4
Olivia Mecum	8
Dawn Clanton	14
Marnie Mammaing	15
Jason Schneider	17
Maya Malay	19
Randy Forman	20
Laurie Buyer	21
Carole Larson	22
Samuel Offenbecher	23
Nate Schafer	25
Bill Cooper	26
Laura Jocson	26
Pat Vidlak	27
Annabelle Greenhagen	28
Nico Lasta	29
Troy Malay	29
Bob Van Dame	30

## August Anniversaries

Carolyn & Stan Oke	3
Bill & Sue Blair	6
Laura & Chuck Bernabei	8
Chris & Paige Vanko	9
Judy & Mike Jablecki	10
Vicki & Phil Woolley	19
Andrew & Corinne Stontz	19
Carol & Ed Plamondon	30

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the church

office: 630 879 1999 or

[office@congregationalchurch.org](mailto:office@congregationalchurch.org)



**Flowers for the altar!** Thank you to those of you who have signed up and provided fresh flowers for the altar on Sunday mornings. There are plenty of Sundays available for the rest of the year so if you have a special reason to bring flowers or would just like the fruits of your flower garden to grace the altar, please sign up on the bulletin board near Pastor Paige's office or call/email the church office.

## Justice and Witness



**Aurora's July 8 Pride Parade** was again a beautiful event to support and celebrate the LGBTQ community. For a second year New England Congregational hosted a pancake breakfast and church service for the many churches who all together walked down the hill to take our place in the parade on a warm sunny day. Those of us from CCoB walked with our banner and our colorful mini doors: "GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL", and handed out cute stickers to the cheering crowds.

I recently joined several other members of **Fox River Valley Initiative** in a meeting with Mayor Jeff Schielke and Laura Newman to discuss Batavia's need for affordable housing, and the proposed "Residence at River Point" south of town on Rt. 25. The City Council has unanimously approved continuing to explore the feasibility of this 72-unit project. The biggest question is whether the long vacant quarry site could support the weight of the building. We also discussed other potential locations, but since Batavia is so desirable for profitable development, it's an expensive and daunting challenge.

**Immigration:** three members from CCoB, St. Charles Episcopal, and Geneva Unitarian Universalist Society drafted a letter commending and supporting NOT cooperating with ICE officials in any illegal, unconstitutional manner. Members of many churches will have met on a 7/23 Zoom call to discuss/approve the letter and determine who should receive it (i.e. elected officials, law enforcement, etc.). We hope to have at least ten churches/organizations sign this letter. This effort to protect innocent immigrants dovetails nicely with our outreach to Dia Nuevo Comunidad (New Day Community Church) in Hoffman Estates, as described in July's *Tower*.

*Ann Alexander, chair*



**Amelia Brown served as the church clerk for 45 years. John Gustafson was clerk for 41 years. Yikes!**



Our Wednesday Evening program returns on Wednesday, September 10. For the first meeting, we are changing things up and **meeting at Windy Acres Farm!** Windy Acres is located at 37W446 Fabyan Pkwy, Geneva, IL 60134. Children preschool through high school and families are invited to join us from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Windy Acres Farm to explore and play in the attractions area. We will also sample apple cider donuts and cider. You are invited to stay the whole time, or come and go as able.

Registration is required by Sunday, September 7. Watch for the registration link which will be coming soon.

Have you changed your address, email address, or phone number? Don't forget to update your information with the church!



## Children's Ministries



The Foam Party returns! This year it is part of the Church Birthday Celebration on Sunday August 10. Please see more details about that elsewhere in the Tower. The Foam Fun begins at 5:00 p.m. Please let us know if you plan to come play in the Foam through [this link](#). Please invite a friend!



*Alice Gustafson, H.C. Storm,  
and J.B. Nelson were all  
members of CCoB.*



## Batavia Nursery School



August finds us finished with our eight camps of the summer! They were a lot of fun, and the weather could not have been more ideal! There is additional cleaning and set up beginning as our teachers are getting anxious to get into their classrooms for fall. I have spent the summer running those camps with another teacher in addition to planning the curriculum, crafts, and field trips for the upcoming year.

We head into our 51<sup>st</sup> year filled anticipation of what these nine months will bring: new faces and families, returning faces and families, as well as returning families who now have kids old enough to come to us! If you know of anyone looking for a preschool this fall, please send them our way!!

*Pam Foelske, Director*



*Batavia Nursery School was  
founded in 1974 by Jeanie Fisk,  
a CCoB member.*

## 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 Zoom

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](mailto: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— Lucinda Page

Vice Moderator — Jennifer Larson

Treasurer — Annie Barsch

Clerk — Jean Deptolla

Members-at-Large —

Kristin Lasta & Judy Jablecki

**Connections:** Susan Price

**Decorating:** Ann Alexander

**Facilities:** Dave Hummel

**Finance:** Jim Otepka — Team leader

Treasurer — Annie Barsch

Finance Secretary — Phil Woolley •

Sarah Greenhagen • Becky Hall •

Carlene Hougén

**Justice & Witness:** Ann Alexander

**Outreach:** Judy Lutz & Don Smith

**Worship:** Judy Jablecki

**Archivist:** Volunteer needed

**Systems Administrator:** Phil Woolley

**Tower Editor:** Barb Zillgitt

## Women's Connection

6:00 p.m.

Church library

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

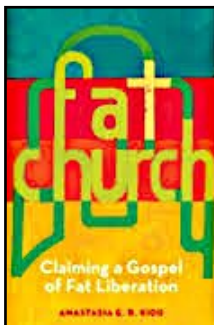
Lynn Smith will lead a discussion of

*The Secret War of Julia Child* by Diana R. Chambers.

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



*Our bell was purchased on August 19, 1872. It weighed 1,864 pounds and cost \$986.04.*



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

a just world for all

## Pilgrim Press

The Pilgrim Press is a bold voice of the UCC with a rich heritage spanning 400 years of publishing. In 1617, it began publishing treatises for the English Separatists against the Church of England under the name Pilgrim Press in Leiden, Holland.

Today the Pilgrim Press publishes books at the intersection of religion and culture, focusing on topics like faith, social justice, and contemporary issues. Some notable titles include "Water Bugs and Dragonflies: Explaining Death to Young Children," "Fat Church: Claiming a Gospel of Fat Liberation," and various hymnals and resources for religious education. They also publish works related to the writings of John Bunyan, including "The Pilgrim's Progress" and related resources.



*Eight of the original fourteen members left this church within five years to form other congregations.*