

## Announcements



**Prayer List:** Family of Bev Denyes, Sarah, Rhonda Silence, Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

At home and Care Center: Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, and Tom Hedstrom.

### Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2024 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2024, showing a need for a yearly income of \$175,834.

After Eighteen weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$60,865.61. After Eighteen weeks of 2024, the actual donations and income reached \$69,142.44.

-Kevin R. LeVoir, Treasurer

## This Week at the Church

### Sunday, May 12 Happy Mother's Day!

9:30 AM - Choir Practice (SA)

10:30 AM – 7th Sunday of Easter – On this Sunday we will be exploring the story of the Sadducees in an argument with Jesus. They challenge Jesus' theology and understanding of resurrection (which they proclaim cannot happen) and they use a woman who married seven brothers to make their point. This isn't a love story, but one of subjugation and ownership. How does Jesus answer this and how do we view this today?

### Fellowship to Follow

2:0 PM – Worship at Care Center

### Monday, May 13

2:00 PM-6:00 PM - Piano Lessons (SA)  
3:00 PM-5:00 PM – Food Shelf (LL)  
6:00 PM – Pride Committee (CCHE)  
7:00 PM – Al-Anon (FS)

### Tuesday, May 14

12:00 PM – Group Music Class (SA)  
2:00 PM – Narrative Lectionary Study (ZO)  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)  
5:00 PM – Board of Directors Meeting (ZO)  
7:00 PM – Planetary Healing: One Being at a Time (FS)

### Wednesday, May 15

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)  
6:00 PM – Sing-along (N)  
Pastor Enno is on vacation until May 29th

### Thursday, May 16

10:00 AM – Tai Chi (SH)  
12:00 PM – Women's AA (FS)  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)  
3:30-5:30 PM – Cook County Public Health (MR)

### Friday, May 17

7:00 AM – AA (FS)  
8:00 AM – Harbor Watch (Java Moose)  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons (SA)  
7:30 PM – AA (FS)

### Saturday, May 18

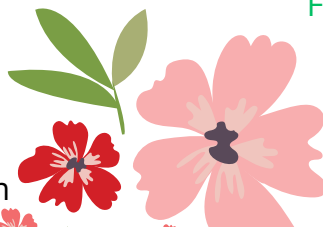
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Spring Work Day (outside)

### Sunday, May 19

9:30 AM – Choir Practice (SA)  
10:30 AM – Pentecost Sunday - On this Sunday, we lift up the day that the Holy Spirit poured upon the apostles and woke up everyone in Jerusalem to the joy of something new taking place. Rev. Rolf Morck will be leading worship as Pastor Enno is on vacation.

### Fellowship to Follow

Happy  
Mother's  
Day





## New Congregations

How can we start new congregations? Through the Strengthen the Church Offering, people around our country can help support new congregations. These emerging churches receive "CASA Grants" or Congregational Assessment, Support, and Advancement Grants. Pastor Ali Lopez Valcarcel received a CASA Grant and coaching for her effort to start the United Church of Christ Rio Grande Valley, also known as Proyecto RGV.

Funds helped provide tools for the ministry, such as a place to gather, support for a pastor, and sound equipment. It also supports outreach to migrants on both sides of the Rio Grande.

A community leader reflected on this vital work. "The UCC RGV has been able to establish a visual presence of Christ and become a voice for compassion and justice in the Rio Grande Valley."

"The CASA Grant gave us our start," explains Pastor Ali Lopez Valcarcel. The grant represents support coming into the Rio Grande Valley from congregations and people across the United Church of Christ. "It means so much that the wider United Church of Christ believes in us. It encourages me as a pastor and person committed to this work. People believe in us! And it creates a level of accountability. People count on us!" In September 2023, UCC Rio Grande Valley held its inaugural service. The service brought together Latino cultural and spiritual traditions in a unique way that allowed people to use all their senses to engage in worship. This past October, UCC Rio Grande Valley led an ecumenical vigil for Kimberly Avila. Kimberly, a transgender sibling, went missing five years ago from Brownsville, TX.

The Avila family thanked UCC Rio Grande Valley for leading the effort to bring light to Kimberly's disappearance, as the local authorities have done little to help bring Kimberly home.

An Open and Affirming, Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation is forming in Texas because generous people support the Strengthen the Church Offering. Think what more we can do together!

**Through the Strengthen the Church Offering, we help support the work of conferences and the national setting as we become a multi-racial/ multi-cultural church.**

