



John Omerod, Pastor



NEED TO CONTACT US?

Church Office:
630.556.3986

Pastor's Cell:
815.761.3910

Pastor's email:
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's email:
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Church website –
ECUCC.org

Visit us on Facebook for
current information .

THE PARISH VISITOR MAY 2026

From the desk of Pastor John

The creation story in Genesis is a brief history of God's imagination and genius that shaped form from chaos—in seven days, seven millennia, or longer. Annie Dillard's poem below is surprising with its fresh language, the wonder of creation, a sense for creation's mystery, and a delight in the newness of each spring. I would ask that you slow the temptation to read this poem quickly. Meander through the lines at an easy pace. Roam the verses like a curious, leisurely traveler.

*Why so many forms?
Why not just that one
hydrogen atom?*

*The creator goes off
on one wild, specific
tangent after another,
or millions simultaneously,
with an exuberance
that would seem to be
unwarranted, and with
an abandoned energy sprung
from an unfathomable font.*

*What is going on here?
The point of the dragonfly's
terrible lip, the giant water bug,
birdsong, or the beautiful dazzle
and flash of sunlighted minnows,
is not that it all fits together
like clockwork – for it doesn't,
particularly, not even inside
the goldfish bowl – but that
it all flows so freely and wild,
like the creek, that it all surges
in such a free, fringed tangle.*

*Freedom is the world's water
and weather, the world's nourishment
freely given, its soil and sap:
and the creator loves pizzazz.*



Volunteers are needed for Coffee Hour

If you are able to volunteer for coffee hour, please see the sign up sheet on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. Help is needed in the month of May and beyond. Thank you.



PIZZA NIGHT

Our monthly Pizza Night with our friends at LifeSpring Women's Shelter will be on Friday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m. If you can help out with salads, drinks or desserts, or if you are interested in attending the dinner, please contact Melissa Peters. Thank you.



The **Hinckley Area Food Pantry (HAFP)** serves the communities of Big Rock, Hinckley, Maple Park, and Waterman and provides food assistance to our neighbors in these communities.

Monetary donations allow the pantry to purchase \$8 of food through the **Northern Illinois Food Bank** for every \$1 donated. Any food and personal care items are appreciated, but there are some items that they cannot source from the **NIFB**. If you would like to purchase any of these, you can donate them or any other donation in the bin at church for the Pantry. The items are:

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Toilet Paper | Paper Towels | Kleenex | Shampoo & Conditioner |
| Breakfast Cereal | Apple Sauce | Tuna | Toothbrushes and Toothpaste |
| Sugar | Flour | Apple Juice | Cranberry Juice |

If you wish to make a **direct monetary donation to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry**, without going through ECUCC, their address is: Hinckley Area Food Pantry, PO Box 463, Hinckley IL 60520. They will send a tax donation letter at the end of the year to those that choose to make a monetary donation. Every donation is greatly appreciated!

Volunteers for May

May 3rd
Sunday School at 9am
Worship at 10:15 am

Communion Sunday
Change Up Sunday

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Volunteers are needed

Lock Up: Worship
Communion Servers: Moderator, Treasurer, Worship



May 10th
Sunday School at 9am
Worship at 10:15 am

Mother's Day

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Volunteers needed

Lock Up: Youth



May 17th
Sunday School at 9am
Worship at 10:15 am

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Volunteers are needed

Lock Up: Moderator

May 24th
Sunday School at 9am

Worship at 10:15 am
Strengthen the Church
Offering

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Pastor and Ginny Omerod

Lock Up: Vice Moderator

May 31st
Last Day of Sunday School
At 9am

Worship at 10:15 am
Collection for the
Nick Ashby Memorial
Fund at Eden Seminary

Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families
Coffee: Sunday School Group

Lock Up: Treasurer



May 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					<p>1 Worship Ministry Meeting at 9:30am</p> <p>LifeSpring Pizza Night at 6pm in Auror</p> 	2
<p>3 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am</p> <p>Communion Change Up Sundaes</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am</p>	<p>18 Executive Council Meeting at 6:30pm</p>	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:15am</p> <p>Strengthen the Church Offering</p>	<p>25 memorial DAY</p>  <p>Church Office Closed</p>	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31 Last Day of Sunday School at 9am</p> <p>Worship 10:15am Collection for the Nick Ashby Memorial Fund at Eden Seminary</p>						



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING
PENTECOST SUNDAY
May 24th

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports the work of our conference and the national United Church of Christ to become a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all. The offering funds leadership development, youth and young adult ministries, and new and renewing congregations.



ENGLISH
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

301 Rhodes
PO Box 156
Big Rock IL 60511

Church Office:
630.556.3986



Pastor's cell:
815.761.3910

Pastor's email:
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's email:
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Like us on
Facebook

"A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS,
A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE."
2026 VISION STATEMENT