



The BEACON

The Official Newsletter of Christ Church United Church of Christ, Des Plaines, Illinois
An Open & Affirming WISE for mental health congregation

Volume II, Issue VIII

September 2025

From The Pastor's Desk: When Words Wound, Love Must Speak

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

— Proverbs 31:8-9

Dear Christ Church Family,

As adults, we often talk about protecting children. We want them to be safe, happy, and free to grow into who God created them to be. And yet, sometimes we forget that children are like sponges—absorbing everything around them, the good, the bad, and the in-between. The problem comes when they repeat negative behavior, often reflecting what they've seen, sometimes even from adults.

This reality hit home for me as my son started a new school year. On only his third day, he faced hateful words from a classmate. Last year, a similar incident had occurred before his birthday, and the teacher addressed it with the boys involved. What struck me this year was hearing the hurt in his teacher's voice as she called to tell me what happened. She immediately expressed disagreement with the boy's sentiment and would convey the same thing to his parents. She was thankful that my son felt safe enough to approach her and had already addressed the student, and would also call his parents. I expressed my gratitude for her care and action.

When I picked him up, I asked how his day went. He first mentioned a minor disagreement with a female classmate. I knew there was more, so I told him, "I know there's more, so I can tell you what I know or you can tell me what you know." Then, "If you're worried I'll get upset, it's not about my feelings—it's about yours. My job is to look after you and your heart." Then he shared what a male classmate had said to him. The boy taunted him about our family. Even after that, he still called him his friend. I reminded him gently that someone who treats him that way is not truly a friend. I also reminded him that cruelty is never an excuse for cruelty in return. We should respond with kindness, even when it hurts—but I acknowledged that sometimes it's really, really hard.

This lesson is reflected in our community today. Many have expressed hate toward a trans teen in Schaumburg/Palatine High School, rallying to block their participation in sports. Others have stood to defend this teen, recognizing that they are, above all, a child—a child of God, someone's child. And it's adults who are expressing the hate. The reality is that less than 1% of high school athletes are transgender, yet the fear and anger directed at them are wildly outsized. Proverbs reminds us: speak up, act justly, and defend those who cannot defend themselves.

As a church, may we live this out. Let us model kindness, empathy, and justice, showing that our faith is not only in words, but in how we live.

In faith and action,

Rev. Gilbert



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Nourishment Through Scripture

For all those who are following the Scripture lessons used during the Sunday Worship Services, here are the September 2025 Common Lectionary readings:

September 7: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

September 14: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 21: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 28: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



Pastor's Office Hours:

Sundays: By Appt after worship.

Mondays: Phone, Video, or Appt.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 10 am - 3 pm*

Thursdays: By Appt.

Sabbath: Fridays and Saturdays

**Can schedule later appointments on a case-by-case basis. For emergencies, call the pastor on his cell: 224-250-9898*

Finance Manager's Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Administrative Assistant's Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

STAFF MEETING: Tuesdays 10 am - 12 pm

The office phone is not answered.

COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT

Suggested items - please, no peanut based snacks and no glass jars!

- Single-serve breakfast cereal
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Pancake mix (add water variety)
- Canned red beans
- One-pound bags of rice
- Pasta and pasta sauce (in cans or plastic jars)



- Canned tuna, beef or chicken
- Peanut butter and jelly (in plastic jars)
- Fruit cups, pudding cups, fruit snacks
- Individually wrapped snacks and chips
- Canned pasta (ravioli, beef-a-Roni, stew, or chili)
- Canned soup

Giving

Did you know our church offers online giving and text-to-give? They're easy to use and secure! You can give a gift of support online at <https://bit.ly/ChristChurchUCCGive> or give via text message by texting the amount you would like to give to 847-750-3007.



Kindness is free.
Let's sprinkle that stuff everywhere!



SUNDAY CHURCH MINISTRIES

	<u>Liturgist/Lector</u>	<u>Council Greeter</u>	<u>Streaming Coordinator</u>
September 7	Holly Schmidt	Bob Neil	Judy Rosedale
September 14	Laura Hallberg	George Bielat	Mandy O'Donnell
September 21	Putz-Cheng Family	Bob Neil	Judy Rosedale
September 28	Kyle Speer	Holly Schmidt	Mandy O'Donnell



Ushers

September 7	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat, Rahsaan Strode, Jr
September 14	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick
September 21	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, George Bielat, Rahsaan Strode, Jr
September 28	Jan Storm, Donna Boyko, Alice Barnhart, Julie Radman, Carolyn Amick



988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

988
LÍNEA DE
PREVENCIÓN
DEL SUICIDIO
Y CRISIS

**AUGUST'S AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE:**
58±

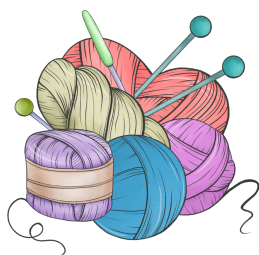


FINANCIAL REPORT

Christ Church UCC Des Plaines Statement of Financial Activity

July 27 through August 23, 2025

	Week of Jul 27, 25	Week of Aug 3, 25	Week of Aug 10, 25	Week of Aug 17, 25	TOTAL
▼ Ordinary Income/Expe...					
▶ Income	838.00	4,033.91	1,083.66	1,367.00	7,322.57
▶ Expense	12,992.03	5,349.92	740.00	7,763.21	26,845.16
Net Ordinary Income	-12,154.03	-1,316.01	343.66	-6,396.21	-19,522.59



Lets Get Involved!

GET IT TOGETHER: Tiny Toes & Big Hearts! Our Get It Together group crafted blankets, hats & booties for Project Baby Blanket! They'll bring a little love to NICU babies. Can you crochet or knit? Consider joining our group! The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the lounge. *The next meetings will be on June 18th and September 17th, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.*

NOTABLES: The Notables will meet again to prepare for the coming busy season. As always, in Wobbe Hall from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Kyle Speer for more details.



MISSION COMMITTEE: On the first Sunday of every month, we collect food for the Self-Help Closet and Pantry of Des Plaines. The Red Barrels will be in the narthex.

Please, no expired food; here are a few suggestions:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| • Ketchup | • Body wash | • Men's, Women's, and children's all-sizes underwear |
| • Mustard | • Shampoo | • Ensure, Boost, Glucerna (generic ok) |
| • Mayonnaise | • Dish soap | • Canned dinners (hash, chili) |
| • Pasta sauce (plain) | • Laundry detergent | • Canned fruit |
| • Flour | • Paper towels | • Peanut butter |
| • Sugar | • Dog food (canned and dry) | • Jelly or jam |
| • Instant coffee | • Cooking oil | |
| • Juice (large bottles or boxed) | | |
| • Breakfast cereal (chocolate if possible) | | |
| • New or like-new clean bed linens and towels | | |



Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags. Thank you everyone for all your help.

Men's Lunch:

Next meeting is on Monday, **September 8th at 11:45 am.**

Sunrise Grill: 1930 E Touhy Ave, Des Plaines, IL 60018



Women's Breakfast:

Next meeting is on Tuesday, **September 9th at 9 am.**

Sunrise Grill: 1930 E Touhy Ave, Des Plaines, IL 60018

LIBRARY



NEW BOOKS IN THE LITTLE LIBRARY!

Looking for a good read? Thanks to our dedicated Faith Forward Commission, our Little Library is stocked with various books for all ages. Each book has been carefully selected and stamped with our library stamp.

Want to contribute? Please hand your book donations to a Commission member. Remember, only pre-approved books will be stamped.

Christ Church Council Meeting June 2025

Call to Order: 7:02 pm

Roll Call: Mandy O'Donnell, Holly Schmidt, Steve Bay, George Bielat, Laura Hallberg, Pastor Gilbert

Prayer: Holly

Review of May 11, 2025 Council Minutes:

Motion and second to approve the May 11, 2025 minutes as sent out.

Discussion:

- Question – are the dollars for Camino separate from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund? Yes

The motion passed to accept the minutes.

Review of May 28, 2025 Combined Mission / Council Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion made to accept the minutes.

Discussion:

- Question on the extent of liability of the Church for Camino using the Church's address for their mailing address. There is no liability issue.

The motion to accept the minutes passed.

Review of the May 2025 Financial Report

Motion to approve the March 2025 Financial report as presented.

Discussion: Why is the trash bill \$600? It seems high – can it be lower? Mandy will reach out to Kyle via email to see what our options might be – if any.

Disbursement of the scholarship fund = not yet on the report.

Why are the charges for the Concert under Outreach? This should be moved to ONA WISE. Rev.

Gilbert will provide this to Kyle. The motion passed.

Officer Reports – none

Pastor's Report

Worship & Arts:

- Regular Worship services – Four (4)
- Pentecost, Confirmation, Children's Day, Scholarship Worship Service – 2 with Communion

Faith Forward Commission | Christian Education

- One Confirmation Class
- Confirmed, June 8 – Nathaniel P. Cheng
- Two Goebel Scholarship recipients – Murphy Putz and Jazmyn Vasquez - \$750 each
- Led Companionship Training with 5 participants including our administrative assistant

Pastoral Care:

- Welcomed 1 new member through Confirmation referred to above
- Pastoral contact (pastoral care-related calls/texts, emails, in-person visits, greeting cards) = 35+

Administrative/Personnel:

- Staff Meeting – Five (5) (includes w/maintenance technician on Sundays)
- Continue to co-manage all social media. Updated website
- Eight (8) committee meeting(s)
- The Vision Task Force continues to meet and explore options for our next chapter. Met yesterday and reviewed the Sunday "focus group" feedback.
- Conducted a preliminary interview for the Music Director position. The candidate contacted us to let us know he accepted another position. We will restart the process to find more candidates.
- Office Staff will work on Monday June 30th to observe Friday July 4th as a holiday.
- Finance Manager plans to be out July 4 – 14.
- Pastor's vacation will be July 14 – 27.
- Custodian plans to be out Thursday June 12.
- Staff will work on Monday June 16 to allow them to observe Juneteenth on Thursday of that week.

Wider UCC & DP Community Meetings/Presentations/Events:

- DP Alliance Clergy Meeting
- Attended Book Chat hosted by the Outreach Committee at the Des Plaines Library.
- Hosted the Community Pride Celebration in partnership with Speak DP & DP Clergy Alliance
 - event was a massive success with lots of smiles
- Two (2) IL Conference of the UCC level meetings

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: No report.

Outreach Committee:

- The Outreach Committee met on May 28 to finalize plans for our next events in the summer which includes a Zoom book chat on June 17 featuring a book by Denise R. Collins called “the Angel of the West Side”. The author will be presenting her book which focuses on the impact of small actions which can have a big community impact.
- A second presentation at the DP Library will be held on June 10 at 7 p. Rita S Barth will be speaking on the Little Libraries in Des Plaines.
- We will be presenting a music series during worship in the summer months. The dates are June 22, July 29 and August 31.
- The next Outreach Committee Meeting will be June 16 at 5:15 pm.

Building Committee:

- The fire extinguishers have all been serviced.

Faith Forward Commission:

- George Goebel and HUG camp scholarships were voted on. The Goerge Gobel scholarships will be handed out on Sunday June 8.
- Summer Sunday activities planned. Approximately one youth activity will be held per month.
- FFC members will sign up to check and maintain the library twice per month.

ONA Wise Committee: No report.

Missions:

- The Mission Committee gave the approval to give \$15k to “Camino Rising.” We had a discussion with Pastor Gilbert about his new non-profit and agreed to make this donation.

Memorial Garden:

- Roy and Sally Sove started the Memorial Garden years ago. Roy was lovingly interred in the garden several weeks ago, joining many other congregants who now rest peacefully in our garden.
- The garden has been trimmed, watered and weeded for spring. New flowerpots are in the garden and by the small library, filled with color for our enjoyment.

Vision Task Force: No report.

Unfinished Business

- Community Pride Celebration will have a debrief meeting on June 18. It was a successful event.
- Music Director update – the candidate we interviewed accepted another position. We will restart the process to find an individual that will meet our needs (including playing the organ).
- Vision Task Force met yesterday to review the Sunday “focus group” feedback. Congregational meeting tentatively set for September 28.
- QuickBooks transition to the cloud is in progress.

New Business:

- Holly Schmidt (council vice-president) accepted Steve Bay’s resignation from the Church Council.
- Affirmation of El Salvador Trip for this fall is November 10 – 16. This was approved at a meeting earlier this year.
- The Playground = Ancient Christian Practices Reimagined for today will be in 2026 in St. Augustine FL. Cost of \$1000. Also includes a trip to Rome and Assisi in Summer of 2026. Total cost is estimated to be \$1500. Only if accepted into the program.
- Motion to approve passed.

Motion to adjourn at 8:33 pm passed.



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An open & affirming WISE for mental health congregation.

JOIN US FOR OUR RALLY DAY!



FUN ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7

★ Special Performance by
Big Noise Theatre at 11:15 AM!



FESTIVE MUSIC



FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY



DELICIOUS FREE FOOD

Bring a friend or neighbor!



Annual La Worship

August



Faith Forward Commission
Board Games!

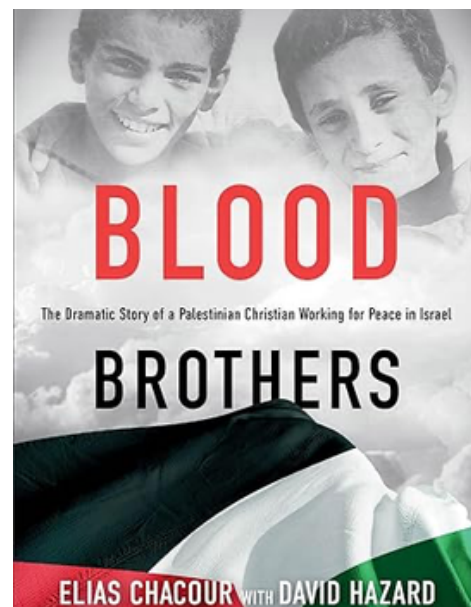
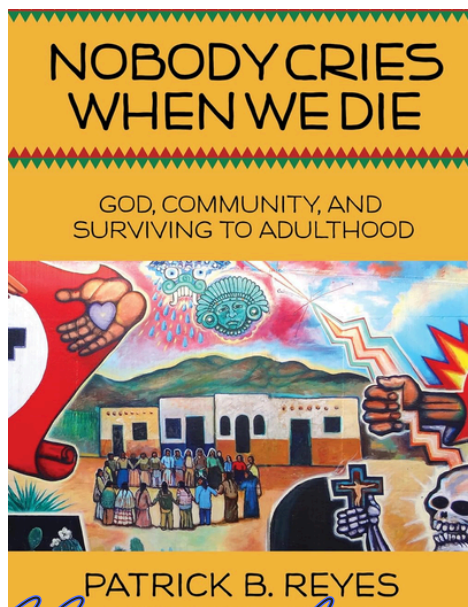
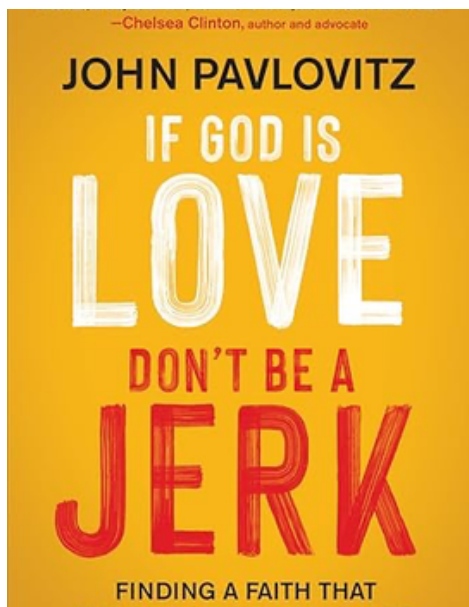




ake Opeka & Picnic

3, 2025





Fall Book Series

Join Us for Our August–October Book Series: Stories of Faith, Justice, and Resilience

Dates & Time: Saturdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Lounge

- ~~August 16: If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk by John Pavlovitz~~
- **September 20: Nobody Cries When We Die by Patrick Reyes**
- **October 18: Blood Brothers by Elias Chacour**

Come for one discussion or all three—this is a space for honest conversation, shared learning, and spiritual growth.

Here are the links to be able to purchase the books:

If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/bKH9wCE>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/MakesUsBetter>

Blood Brothers: The Dramatic Story of a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/g6y6cGe>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/Chacour2025>

Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood

- **New:** <https://a.co/d/fDLKSq9>
- **Used:** <https://bit.ly/NobodyCrie>

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COMMUNITY
TALENT



Show!

IN CELEBRATION OF
DES PLAINES THEATRE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 21 | 1PM



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OR



BNT BIG NOISE 2025/26 THEATRE SEASON

Annie

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BOOK BY
THOMAS MEEHAN

MUSIC BY
CHARLES STROUSE

LYRICS BY
MARTIN CHARNIN

ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY
MARTIN CHARNIN

MUSIC DIRECTED BY
AARON KAPLAN

DIRECTED &
CO-CHOREOGRAPHED BY
ANNIE SNOW

CO-CHOREOGRAPHED BY
ABBY BOEGH

*Based on "Little Orphan Annie" ® by permission of the Tribune Content Agency, LLC
Originally produced by The Goodspeed Opera House
Michael P. Price, Executive Director*

SEPTEMBER 26 THRU OCTOBER 12, 2025

PRAIRIE LAKES THEATER

515 E. Thacker Street • Des Plaines, IL 60016

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30pm • Sundays at 2pm
Additional Performance Saturday, October 11 at 2pm



bignoise.org/annie • 847.220.7268

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).

You are cordially invited to the

Service of Installation

for

The Rev. Abigail Lutz

as

Associate Minister

of

Glenview Community Church

1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL, 60025

(or via GCC's YouTube/Facebook Livestream)

on

Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 3:00PM

Clergy should gather at 2:30pm in the Chapel
and are invited to robe and wear red or colorful stoles.

Reception to follow.

Please RSVP to office@gccucc.org

Memorials/Honors for August

In loving memory of my husband Don on 9/3, *by Charlene Dohse*

In memory of our son, Mike, on his bday 9/6, *by Bud & Elaine Hudson*



Happy
ANNIVERSARY

6 - Sally Sove
8 - Wendy Ortiz
9 - Jessica Busse
10 - Robert Neil
10 - Stephen Bay
11 - Miles Skibbe

12 - Rev. Carol Currier Frighetto
22 - Jacob Guerra-Martinez
28 - Meadow Putz
29 - Donald Rosedale
30 - Emily Rosedale

14 - Jennifer & Alan Ventrella (12)
18 - Frank & Julie Staggs (31)
20 - Bud & Elaine Hudson (67)



HOUSING STABILITY FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING

Center
of Concern

*"Housing and health problems are intertwined.
So are their solutions."*

-Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

This year, Center of Concern is going beyond loneliness, expanding our conversation to explore how stable housing environments are essential for people throughout their lives.

You are invited to join us to learn how you can help while enjoying an evening of appetizers, cocktails, networking, panel discussion, and awards ceremony.

CENTEROFCONCERN.ORG/STABILITY

Monday, September 8, 2025
5:30pm Networking and Appetizers
6:30pm Program Start

Des Plaines
THEATRE

Des Plaines Theatre
1476 Miner Street
Des Plaines, IL 60016

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Time</u>
7	Rally Day	Parking Lot	10:30 am
	Finance Committee Meeting	Lounge	12:30 pm
8	Men's Lunch	Sunrise Grill	11:45 am
9	Women's Breakfast	Sunrise Grill	9:30 am
	Vision Task Force	Lounge	1:30 pm
10	Potluck	Wobbe Hall	6 pm
	Council Meeting	Lounge	7 pm
11	Mission Committee Meeting	Lounge	7 pm
17	Get It Together	Lounge	10 am - 12 pm
20	Fall Book Series (<i>See insert for titles</i>)	Lounge	10 am - 12 pm
21	ONA-WISE Committee Meeting	Lounge	10:45 am
	First United Talent Show	Des Plaines Theatre	1pm - 3 pm
22	Faith Forward Commission Meeting	Lounge	5:15 pm
23	Vision Task Force Meeting	Lounge	1:30 pm
28	Service of Installation for Rev. Abigail Lutz	Glenview Community Church	3 pm

PLASTIC RECYCLING CHALLENGE

We're off to a fantastic start in our plastic recycling challenge, a joint effort between Trinity Lutheran ELCA, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, and First United Methodist Church. A total of 673 pounds have been collected as of August 21, 2025. To reach our goal of 1,000 pounds by June 30, 2026, we need 327 pounds! Please continue bringing in your recyclable plastics to help us earn a bench for the Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines!



"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." - 3 John 1:2

Please keep the church office informed when you hear of someone needing prayers. During the months of **August**, our thoughts and prayers were with:

Marion Meseth*
Dawn Mashek
Linda Steckel*
Jack Storm
Sue Prunty
Marilyn Hoover*

Marilyn McCown
Dorothy Zemke*
Kelly Roberts
Helen Harney
Hope & Bruce Tschappat*
George Bielat

Homebound*
Our Country
Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestinian,
and Israeli citizens
Documented & Undocumented
Immigrants



**Christ Church
United Church of Christ**

1492 Henry Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-297-4230

christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Facebook & Instagram:
[@christchurchuccdesplaines](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines)

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**Jezze Patterson, Administrative Assistant &
Digital Outreach Coordinator**
jezzle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Kyle Speer, Finance Manager & Music Coordinator
kyle@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Tommie Jordan, Custodian
Emanuel Alvarez, Maintenance Technician

Hana Fujisaki, Organist

The Beacon is the official newsletter of Christ Church United Church of Christ. Edited by church staff. Published monthly, August through June.

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**988
Suicide and Crisis
Lifeline**
Call or Text

