

United In Christ Lutheran Church



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter
Vicar Katy Moran

Welcome to our church!

*We hope the service is meaningful, and uplifting,
and that you will experience God's presence here.
May God bless you during worship today.*

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

Please see a greeter.

ELEVATOR

Please see a greeter.

REST ROOMS

Downstairs across from the church office.

DIAPER CHANGING TABLE

In fellowship hall family restroom.

Visit us at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: Pastor

Vicar Katy Moran: Senior Seminarian

Terri Cromwell: Parish Administrator and OAKS Senior Center Director

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

Marilyn Gresh: Music Director

United In Christ's Mission Statement:

*Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor
God and neighbor through worship, learning, service,
prayer, stewardship and invitation.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

**You have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering.

**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

Awake, O Sleeper



1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



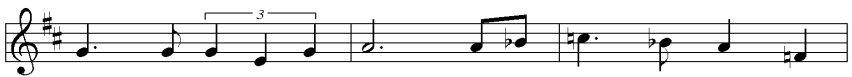
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

(continues on next page)

☩ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.
 ☩ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 18:21-35

This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

APOSTLE'S CREED

Let us confess our faith using the Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,**

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Prayers continue with each petition ending:

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The minister and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please share the peace at whatever level of physical contact with which you are comfortable.

***Please fill out an Attendance Card,
and place the card in an offering plate.***

OFFERING

You are invited to place your offering in one of the plates as they are passed or to make use of our online offering plate through tithe.ly by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving by clicking on the green “Give Now” button.



OFFERTORY HYMN



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

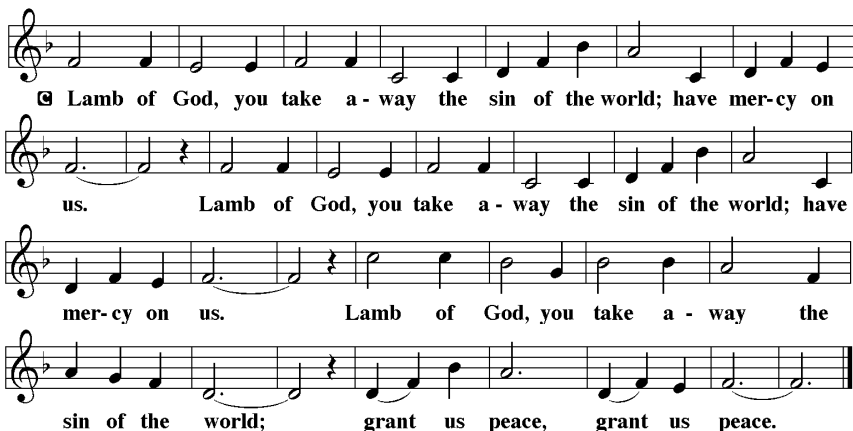
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

Thanks be to God.



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, and all people are invited to his table. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

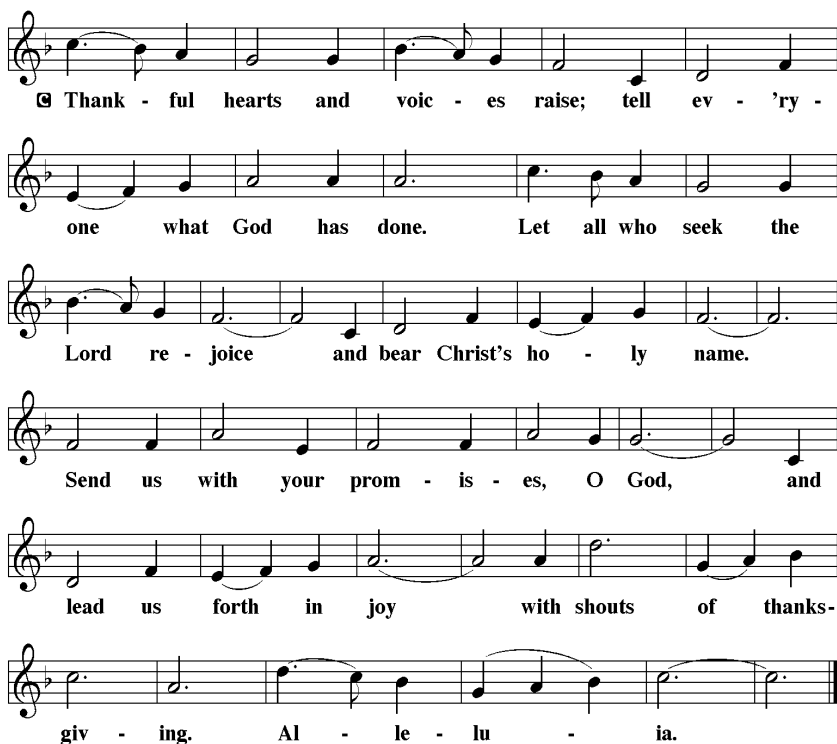
Music will accompany the distribution of communion.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 543

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



*Today's altar flowers are given
to the Glory of God
in honor of Peyton's and
Willow LeBarron's birthdays.*

*After worship please join us in the
fellowship hall for social hour.*

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What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Sept. 17 Worship, 10:00am
 Social Hour, 11:00am
 Faith and Fun, 11:00am
 Youth Group, 1:00pm
- Mon, Sept. 18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 Walking Group, 6:00pm
 Boy Scouts, 7:00pm
- Tue, Sept. 19 Faith and Civic Life Study, 6:30pm
 Council Meeting: 7:30pm
- Thu, Sept. 21 Walking Group, 6:00pm
- Fri, Sept. 22 Office Closed
- Sun, Sept. 24 Worship, 10:00am
 Social Hour, 11:00am
 Faith and Fun, 11:00am

UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

Please pray for: Jaxon Baker, Max Engle, Family and friends of Joslyn Flickinger, Peg Swinehart, Patrick Moseley, Russ Weiser, Eric and Audrey Ekstrom, Denise Clark, Betsy Thomas, June Campbell, Ken Kearney, Earl Butch Tyson, Russ Wynn, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Annette Baker, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Bob Keifer, Martha Ketchem, Marie Tanner, Viv Marsh.



Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

Submit your prayer request by calling 570-568-2254
or emailing it to office@unitedinchristlutheran.net



HAPPY *Anniversary*

Justin and Nicole Cooley 9/20/14
Chad and Terri Cromwell 9/22/01



Happy Birthday

Willow Lebarron 9/17
Sue Keifer 9/17
Dawn Warren 9/23
Karen Baker 9/23



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office with these dates.



CIVIC LIFE & FAITH

A study on faith, government, politics,
and scripture in the 21st century.



United In Christ Lutheran Church



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

**ATTENTION
WORSHIP
VOLUNTEERS**

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in October which you will not be available to serve during worship. After you are scheduled it will be your responsibility to trade with someone else on the schedule if you are not available to serve that day. Any articles, events, photos and/or thank you notes you'd like to have printed in the October Newsletter need to be in the office by Monday, September 18.

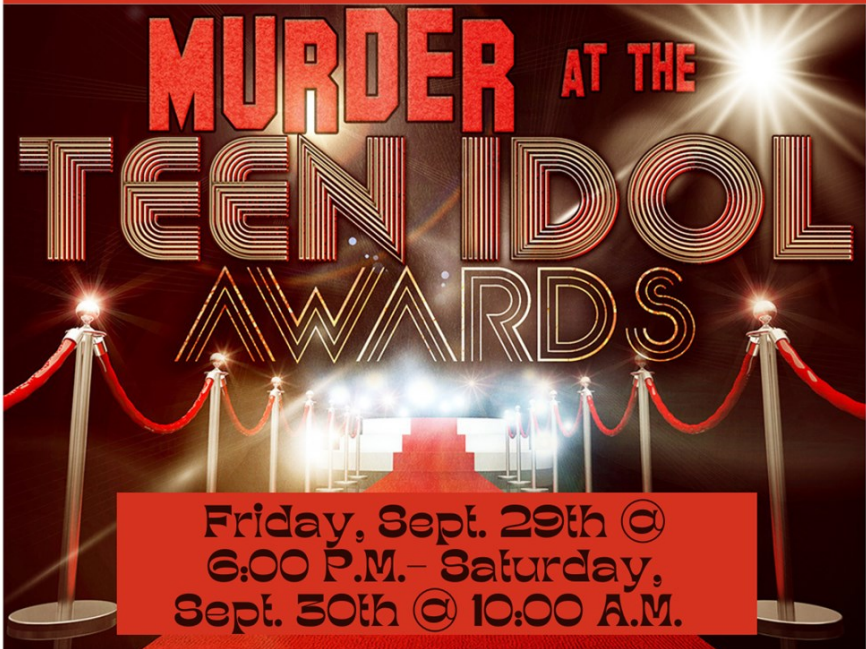
YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will resume on Sunday, September 17 at 6pm at United In Christ. Youth Group is open to all students in grades 7-12 and typically runs for about two hours! Youth Group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

If you are or have a youth member interested in being part of Youth Group, please reach out to Pastor Justin or Vicar Katy and they'll get you connected!



Lockin for Junior and
Senior High Teens



CALLING ALL JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH TEENS!

On September- 29th-30th we will have a lock-in and Murder Mystery night at Milton Lutheran Church! All participants must sign up no later than September 17th so they can receive their personal invitation to the awards. Teens are encouraged to bring friends. Please sign-up on the sign-up board in the fellowship hall and be sure to include all of your contact information. Cost for the night is \$10 per person (sponsorship available through UIC); contact Pr. Justin for more details!

UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

Theology on Tap

JOIN US AT
RUSTY RAIL
6:00 PM ON SEPT. 13TH
AND SEPT. 27TH



In partnership with:



GRIEF SUPPORT

A grief support group for those on
the journey together.

You are welcomed here.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	Sept. 17	Sept. 24
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D
Bread/Wine	S. McPherrin	J. Mertz
Altar Guild	C. Zimmerman	C. Troxell
Digital Host	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell
Front Door Greeter	T. Cromwell A. Stark	D. Byerly J. Byerly
Side Door Greeter	G. Weiser	K. Noll
Lector	S. Keifer	A. Stark
Ushers	K. Arndt B. Koch B. Swartz T. Swartz	D. Baker K. Baker M. Shearer A. Stark
Communion Asst.	C. Zimmerman R. Sprenkle	R. Kling T. McPherrin
Guest Relations	M. Mertz	K. Noll
Offering Counter	M.L. Keifer C. Shreck	L. Rabuck Ken Baker

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please try to trade with someone on the schedule and then notify the office of the change.

If you are unable to trade with someone, please call Terri Cromwell at the church, 570-568-2254, and she will find a replacement for you.



Lutheran Church

**1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-568-2254**

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
Sundays at 10am

THE REV. JUSTIN G. LINGENFELTER

CHURCH OFFICE

Open Mon. - Thur. 8:00am - 2:00pm
Email: office@unitedinchristlutheran.net

VISIT US AT

Website: www.unitedinchristlutheran.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC