

2025 saw tremendous transformation for qUUEer, with further growth forming for 2026.

Thanks to the efforts of UUCFW allies, our second annual Mother's Day Bake Sale brought in \$554.32 to support qUUEer's presence at Fort Wayne Pride.

Summer 2025 experienced shifts in qUUEer leadership with new UUCFW member Emery Schlichtenmyer joining the team. Leadership duties are now shared among Emery, Chris, and Nastassia.

Our booth at Fort Wayne Pride was extremely well supported by congregational volunteers. The nonprofit portion of the festival packed up early due to torrential rain, but overall we consider the event a great success in community outreach.

Event appearances in 2025 also included Dekalb County Pride, the New Haven, Indiana Pride and Allies (NHIPA) holiday event, and Whitley County Prism Fest, all of which fostered new connections in the Northern Indiana community and spread goodwill among those local communities. We also spoke at First Presbyterian Church's Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil.

In August 2025, our congregational allies and the Allen County community alongside qUUEer hosted a free wedding reception following the mass wedding at After Dark due to the current political climate. The couple and their families have expressed tremendous gratitude on social media and in person many times since. This reception made a direct impact on the local LGBTQIA2S+ community and brought awareness of UUCFW and qUUEer to local resources.

In 2026, qUUEer will continue our work to build community within UUCFW and connect with outreach to the larger Northern Indiana LGBTQIA2S+ community.

Our second Sunday meetings are now open to UUCFW allies for the purpose of coordinating on upcoming volunteer needs.

We have plans for a booth at Whitley County Prism Marketplace, Steuben County Pride, Dekalb County Pride, Decatur Pride, Fort Wayne Pride, Whitley County Prism Fest, and the NHIPA holiday event.

Along with a booth at FW Pride, we also want to join the parade as well. The parade is a free event which would further awareness of UUCFW and qUUEer. We will require more UUCFW ally volunteers to make this happen.

We are sponsoring Whitley County Prism again in 2026.

And our biggest new venture will be the October 3, 2026 QUUAFT queer arts and crafts market at UUCFW. Connections are already being made to bring in LGBTQIA2S+ owned and allied vendors at the Meetinghouse. This will both support our local small businesses and bring in revenue and foot traffic to UUCFW.