

Weekly Connection

For the Week of April 2, 2017 - April 8, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



DuBois on Broadway - May 12

Broadway-style entertainments with dinner, wine and auctions will benefit Illinois South Conference's DuBois Center on Saturday, May 12, 2017 from 5 pm until 10 pm at the Four Points by Sheraton in Fairview Heights.

You can help through sponsorships, donations for the silent auction, purchasing tickets, and bidding on silent auction items.

Click [here](#) to find out more about sponsorships.

To order tickets by mail, click [here](#).

To volunteer time or donate to the silent auction, click [here](#).

For more information, contact Norma Borgmann at 618-533-1658 or 618-292-4617. [Register online.](#)



The Pit

A man fell into a pit and could not get himself out. Many walked by and saw his plight, but only one knew how to help.

A **SUBJECTIVE** person walked by and said: "I feel for you, down there."

An **OBJECTIVE** person walked by and said: "It's

logical that someone would fall, down there."

A **MATHEMATICIAN** walked by and calculated HOW he fell into the pit.

A **NEWS REPORTER** walked by and wanted the exclusive story on his pit.

A **REALIST** walked by and said: "That's a PIT."

A **SCIENTIST** walked by and calculated the pressure necessary to get him out of the pit.

A **GEOLOGIST** walked by and told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit.

The **COUNTY INSPECTOR** walked by and asked him if he had secured a permit to dig a pit.

The **COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR** walked by and figured the taxes he owed on the pit.

A **PROFESSOR** walked by and gave him a lecture on: "The Elementary Principles of the Pit."

An **OPTIMIST** walked by and said: "Things COULD be worse."

A **PESSIMIST** walked by and said: "Things WILL get worse!!"

Finally, **JESUS walked by**. Seeing the man's plight, took him by the hand and **LIFTED HIM OUT** of the pit.

This tongue-in-cheek story succinctly illustrates for us how we as Christians are called to respond when we see someone in need or we are made aware of an injustice or suffering another is facing—we are called to do something.

Yet, our action must first be rooted in ability to "see" the needs of those around us. Sometimes we do not even see those in the "pit." This takes an awareness of the world outside of our own experiences and perspectives. It is willingness to step outside of our comfort zones and to listen with compassion to the stories of others.

Then when we hear stories of adversity, inequality, injustice and suffering, we must not be tempted to walk on by. For a variety of reasons, we might talk ourselves out of getting involved. We make excuses. We rationalize. We avoid. We become overwhelmed. We get distracted. We become immobilized. And we might be tempted in these moments to walk on by.

However, our call as Christians is to continue the work, mission, and ministry of Jesus Christ in the world. Our call is to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world. As the rest of the world is busy taking care of themselves...we are called to see like Christ, have compassion like Christ and move towards the hurt to lift others up out of the pit. May it be so in our lives! Blessings, Shana

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

[Hitz Memorial Home](#)

[Hoyleton](#)

[Insurance Board](#)

[LIFE Program](#)

[Neighborhood Houses](#)

[New Athens Home](#)

[St. John's Community Care](#)

[St. Paul's Home](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

[ISC Directory](#)

Pray for...

Prayer list for

April 2 - April 8, 2017

Churches & Pastors

- Okawville, St. Paul's UCC, Pastor Cherie (Michael) Stolze
- Okawville, St. Peter's UCC, Rev. Jeffrey (Sara) Schwab

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana

My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

April 2

Worshiping at Immanuel UCC, Hamel

April 5 - Wednesday

Preaching at St. John UCC, New Athens

April 9

Worshiping at St. John Evangelical UCC, Collinsville to welcome Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan

April 15 - Saturday

Preaching at Region 8 Easter Vigil Service, St. Paul, Lebanon

I am currently planning my worship schedule for July 2017 and beyond. If I have not been at your church yet, I would love an invitation! Please reach out to me at the office at 618-654-2125 or on my cell phone at 618-882-8247 with some possible dates. You can also send me an email at sjohnson@iscucc.org. I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing in worship with you.

Blessings, Shana **Your OCWM monies at work.**

Palm Sunday - April 9, 2017

Here is the complete story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and then of his passion - betrayal, arrest, torture and interrogation, and crucifixion as a criminal. It forms an essential part of the Christian story. This document is a script that presents the entire narrative and could be used by an individual church.




The worship script is designed to be delivered by three readers. Rather than assigning parts, the three read lines in succession (with some variations in voice for dramatic effect). Each reader thus plays many roles, and the voices of narrator, Jesus, Peter, and so on, are shared. When any group speaks, whether a crowd of onlookers or the disciples, the congregation reads. Verses of hymns punctuate the story, providing a change of pace and delivering the message in a different mode.

It was shared by UCC in 2015, but the translation of scripture is from *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*, translated by Priests for Equality, Copyright © 2009 Sheed and Ward. Reprinted by UCC with permission of the publishers.

Click [here](#) for the entire Passion Story. You may enjoy reading it with family, friends or the entire congregation. **Your OCWM monies at work.**

 **Preparing Leaders**
For the Progressive Christian Movement



Upcoming Events at Eden Theological Seminary

LIFE at Eden: "The Church is a Learning Community" or "The Sacrament of Baptism in our Lives Today"

April 7-8, 2017

Eden Seminary campus or via videoconference

Choose between two sessions. "The Church is a Learning Community" with the Rev. Dr. Mai-Anh Le Tran or "The Sacrament of Baptism in our Spiritual Lives Today" with the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, MO Mid-South Conference Minister. Visit the [website](#) to learn more and to register.

Spring Convocation: Christian Faith and our Religious Neighbors

April 18-19, 2017

Speakers include Dr. Dale Bishop, Dr. Damayanthi Niles, and Dr. Paul Knitter

What does it mean to love our neighbors when our neighbors do not share our faith? How do Christians participate in a pluralistic religious world without denigrating the faith of others or denying our own? With "Christian Faith and Our Religious Neighbors" and in conjunction with the Armin and Shirley Limper Program in Christianity and World Religions, Eden Seminary brings together three leading scholars on Christianity and pluralism to consider these questions and re-imagine Christianity's relationship with other faiths. Visit www.eden.edu to learn more and to register.

Spring Commencement will be on May 19, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 826 Union Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

- Pana United in Faith Church, Rev. Robert Miner, Interim Pastor

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Bill and Patti Causer, Mt. Vernon, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Kay (Bill) Ahaus as she prepares for surgery. Kay is a member of Highland Evangelical UCC and a member of the ISC Justice & Witness Team. She also served as General Synod Delegate in 2015. Cards may be sent to 200 Rinderer Road, Trenton, IL 62293.

- Please pray for Nancy (Rev. Robert) Tripp as she deals with serious health issues. Cards may be sent to her at 9008 E South Circle Dr, Effingham, IL 62401.

- Keep Dorothy Edwards in your prayers as she deals with health issues. Dorothy is a member of the East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and the mother of Pastor Norma Patterson.

- Pray for Rev. Arnold (Luetta) Bizer as he deals with health issues. Rev. Bizer served as pastor of Alhambra Salem UCC prior to retiring. Cards may be sent to 602 Woodchuck Ln, Lake St. Louis MO 63367.



WORD of MOUTH

We hear repeatedly that DuBois Center is one of the best kept secrets in southern Illinois. Being at the top of this particular list is NOT a good thing! Please help us spread the word about DuBois Center... as a summer camp, an inviting setting for retreats, conferences and horseback rides, a place for families to gather and students to learn. Even though the majority of our summer campers and many of our weekend guests come from Illinois South Conference congregations, DuBois Center serves a much wider community. For finances and mission, we need to serve a wider community. DuBois Center welcomes individuals and groups from a variety of faith traditions, non-profit entities, public and private schools and other educational organizations. Is there a family or group in your church or community that might benefit from all that DuBois Center has to offer? Please help us spread the word! For more information, click [here](#) for a facility brochure and contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

Your OCWM monies at work.



MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome Pieter Fourie to DuBois Center's 2017 summer staff team! He will be serving as a Counselor/Activity Specialist. Pieter lives in Pretoria, South Africa and speaks both English and Afrikaans fluently. He currently works as a camp counselor at Sugar Bay Holiday Camp, where he has developed skills in a wide variety of camp activities. He has significant experience in child care, behavior and conflict management, team building, and lifeguarding. An aspiring actor, Pieter loves to entertain family and friends; he often plans games and activities for family gatherings. In his free time, he auditions for acting roles. He also enjoys traveling, learning about other cultures, and soccer. This summer Pieter hopes to "teach [campers] new skills, form bonds, grow true friendships, and encourage others to do what they dream to do." He is very excited to bring his skills and talents to DuBois Center and to gain many more while serving with us. Ask him about Poi

Spinning! Pieter is a Christian who walks his talk, as reflected in these excerpts from one of his references, "He is a young man of upstanding character... Pieter is charming, honest and has a sound set of values. He is courteous and humble... He is principled and lives his life by Christian values." We are looking forward to Pieter's arrival in May. **Your OCWM monies at work.**



Wrangle & Ride - Saturday, April 22

Corral your friends for a horse-intensive day at DuBois Center! Wrangle & Ride is for pony enthusiasts age 12 and older. Yes, adults and parent - youth pairs are welcome! Groom, tack, ride and enjoy other horse-themed activities from 9 am - 5 pm. The cost is \$60 (\$55 if registered by April 1 - the early bird deadline); lunch is

BUDDY to BUDDY Mission Experience

During this close-to-home mission experience, teens encounter God as they participate together with young people from the Hoyleton youth residential program. They swim, create cool crafts and play games together. Buddies walk side by side with their biblical



"neighbors" and learn first-hand about acceptance and respect. Daily reflections and prayer times focus on diversity, justice and our role as Christians. Registration is by church group for this July 5-7 event. Click [here](#) to learn more or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

Space is limited! Your OCWM monies at work.

included. To ensure more time in the saddle, space is limited to the first 12 registered. Click [here](#) for a flyer and reservation form. Registration is by mail or email only. Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 with questions. **Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.**



EARLY BIRDS Wednesday, April 5

All you need to be singing a happy Early Bird tune is a completed 2017 Camp Registration Form and \$50 non-refundable deposit. Save \$20 on full-week sessions and \$10 on part-week sessions. Postmark or submit registration and deposit [online](#) by April 5. Any UCC "church share" of the camp fee may be paid separately. For added convenience we can bill churches for all their campers at one time. To receive a summer camp brochure - check in your church office, click [here](#), or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.

CALLING ALL QUILTERS!

For over a decade, a quilt drawing has been a significant piece of the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival. In recent years, we have been blessed to have two or more art quality quilts each year which together have raised \$1500-\$2400 annually. The quilts are donated by local church quilting groups and other friends of DuBois Center. Specifications: queen-size, appealing to a wide audience and made with love and prayers. Ideally, the quilts begin traveling to local churches in August, so a July completion date works well. If you or your quilting group might be interested in donating a work-of-art quilt for the 2017 Fall Festival, please contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. We'd love to talk to you about the possibilities.

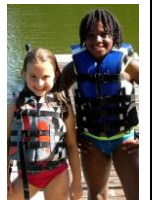


Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.



Camps for Younger Children

Children who have completed grades 1-3 are often looking for ways to gain independence and experience life like the "big kids." Parents are looking for opportunities for their children to gain self-confidence, critical social skills and a greater awareness of God's world. At DuBois Center, we have six part-week sessions designed with this in mind. New adventures under the watchful eyes of caring, safety-conscious leaders and smaller group sizes are ideal for this age group. Despite the length of these sessions, there is still time to ride a horse, explore the creek, swim in the lake and make lots of new friends. This summer, choose from Boy Meets Camp, Camp Quest, Discovery Camp or Girl Power. These sessions vary a bit in length and/or content; check out page 6 of the camp [brochure](#) for details.



Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.

DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries



The Alzheimer Association presents Cardinal Reminiscence League, a session for people with early stage memory loss. The Cardinals Reminiscence League is open to people with memory loss who would like to share memories about the Cardinals baseball team, learn about the team's history, and support the current team. New fans and those who

would like to socialize and learn more are welcome. Sessions will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St. John's Community Care in Edwardsville from 10:30 am - 12 pm and are free. Call 618-656-7090 to learn more and reserve your seat. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

St. John's Community Care presents Surviving Caregiving, an insightful conference designed for family caregivers who wish to gain valuable knowledge and resources that will help them navigate the maze of caregiving, on Sat, April 29 at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Lunch is included. The keynote presentations are:

Legal and Financial Issues by Heidi Dodd, Attorney for Harter, Larson and Dodd

Medications - Benefits and Cautions by Brad Rea, Pharmacist and Hospice of Southern Illinois, Pharmacy Fellow

Caregiver Tips to Make Your Life Easier by Amy Sobrino, MSW Memory Care Home Solutions

Benefits of Therapy for Your Loved One by Rehabilitation Professionals, Inc.

Click [here](#) for flyer. Call 618-222-2561 to register.





The St. Louis Association Women UCC is having their annual Spring Pilgrimage on Monday, April 24, 2017 and would love for you to attend! Join the ladies at Neighborhood Houses' Early Childhood Education Center at Caroline Mission and help with a variety of volunteer work, enjoy some delicious lunch, and end the morning with a worship service. Click [here](#) for more information and how to register. Please contact Nancy R Emmert at 314-522-3718 with any questions. Reservations are due by April 14, 2017.

Deaconess Nurse Ministry has been selected as one of four St. Louis nonprofit health organizations to benefit from the proceeds raised at the very popular Signature Foundation Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on April 24th, and we invite you to register for this fun and charitable outing.



When: Monday, April 24th, 2017

Where: Whitmoor Country Club - 1100 Whitmoor Drive St. Charles, MO

Cost: \$300 per golfer

Volunteer Request: Not playing? That's ok! We're in need of volunteers to help out at our booth and on the course.

Please contact [Rev. Donna Smith - Pupillo](#), DNM Executive Director, to learn more.

For more information and to register to play, click [here](#).



Hoyleton Youth & Family Services shares this invitation with you to join us as we and the Fairmont City Christian Activity Center celebrate the opening of the Puentes/Hoyleton welcoming center on Friday, April 7



from 2 pm - 4 pm. The opening ceremony is at 2:30 pm. The new Fairmont City Welcome Center will assist individuals and families to access public benefits, referrals, interpretation, and additional services that are often difficult due to language and cultural barriers. We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate our newest ministry. Light refreshments will be served. Click [here](#) for more information.



SPRING CLEANING DAY AT KINDERCOTTAGE

We invite you to join us on April 29 with your gloves, mops, buckets, rags, lawnmowers, trimmers, aprons and a sack lunch. We'll work from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. April brings new birth, fresh air, warmer weather and hopefully not too many showers. The building needs freshness and we'll give it that by cleaning windows, walls, floors, and bathrooms. Outdoors we'll pick-up, trim and cut. Do you have a paper shredder? There is a storage room with files needing to be cleaned, organized and files shredded. If you have a shredder, please bring it with you. Gather your mission groups, men's and women's fellowship members, confirmands and all others wanting to help.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Job Opportunity:

Friendly, outgoing church congregation is seeking a part time secretary, 20 hours per week, 8 am to Noon, Monday through Friday. Must be proficient in Office software, Word and Excel.

Duties include assisting the Pastor with daily tasks, preparing a monthly newsletter, weekly bulletin, answering phones, opening mail, monitoring church email, compiling monthly board reports, along with quarterly congregational meeting materials and annual conference reports, as well as managing other congregational needs. Please send resume to Rev. Douglas J. Seagle at Friedens United Church of Christ, 207 E. Center Street, Troy, IL, 62294 or call 618-667-6325.

Job Opportunity

Salem UCC, Alhambra is looking to fill the position of Office Coordinator. The ideal candidate will be proficient with Word, Excel, and social media. This person must also possess excellent grammar and editing skills. The Office Coordinator must be able to professionally interact with the public as the Office Coordinator is the "face" of Salem Church. The position consists of a flexible 24 hour work week and a competitive salary conditional on experience. To apply, please forward your resume to salemuccalh@gmail.com. If you have any questions regarding this position, please call Pastor Jerry at 618-488-3215.

Job Opportunity:

Deaconess Nurse Ministry is looking for person that is passionate about compassionate healthcare for all to work 24 hours with donors and events. Send resume to dpupillo@faithnurses.org.

Equality Illinois presents EqualityCon 2017 on May 6, 2017 in Springfield, IL at the State House Inn. It is a one-day conference in Springfield bringing together the state's LGBTQ community with allies, progressive advocates, civic leaders and community groups. Speakers and panel discussions will cover a wide range of topics including adoption by LGBTQ parents, updating legal documents for transgender Illinoisans, LGBTQ rights in the schools, and much more. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).



The Faith Family of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Lebanon,
In Covenant with
The Illinois South Conference Of the United Church of Christ
Rejoices in inviting you to celebrate the
The Rite of Ordination into Christian Ministry
In the life of ROSEMARY LORENZ CAPTAIN
Sunday, April 23, 2017, 3:00 pm
St. Paul United Church of Christ, 123 East Dee Street, Lebanon
Dinner after by Reservation Only \$10/person
Call 618-537-4991 no later than April 17

The gift of your presence is all that Rosemary requests. Should you desire to make a gift, please do so to DuBois Center. All clergy who attend are encouraged to robe with RED stole. Click [here](#) for invitation.

The Christ UCC in Belleville will host the gospel group, 2016 GMA Hall of Fame Inductees, the Nelons, at their 10 am worship service at the church on Sunday, April 2.

With numerable awards and accolades including three GRAMMY Nominations, Six Gospel Music Association DOVE Awards and many songs that have soared to the top of national radio charts, this family trio continues to produce innovative music that embraces their traditional roots, while simultaneously reaching beyond various musical boundaries with an emphasis on introducing songs for the church. All the while bridging the generational gap of music lovers with incomparable harmonies and great songs. Read [more](#).



Region 4

St. John UCC in Wood River will have their annual "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish Fries on Friday, March 31, and April 7 from 4 - 7 pm. Dinners include White Fish or Swai fillets, choice of 2 sides (potato salad, cole slaw and baked beans), white or rye bread, choice of dessert and a beverage. Adults \$9, Children 6-10 yrs \$5; and Children under 5 yrs free (dine-in only). Visa and Mastercard accepted, handicap accessible, carry-outs available.

St. John's UCC in Brighton will hold their annual Friday Fish Fry - March 31, and April 7. 11 am - 6 pm. Dine in or Carry out. Lunchtime deliveries to businesses and schools are also available. Call church for details 618-372-3737.

Region 5

The Grantfork UCC Mission and Membership committee will be hosting a 145th church anniversary coffee and cake hour after worship at 10:15 am on April 2. We cordially invite all of the past confirmands of the church to attend the service and plan to recognize them during worship. Please spread the word to any confirmands that you may know. We will be treated to a special performance of the children's choir as well. Contact 618- 675-2595 with any questions.

Region 5

Marine UCC will host the 16th annual Trivia Night benefiting Hoyleton Youth & Family Services on Sat, April 29. Challenging trivia, door prizes and more. Cost \$12 per person, 8 players to a table, \$96 for a team/table. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place winning teams. **If you can't attend, buy a raffle ticket for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20.** Contact 618-887-4465 for reservations or raffle.

Summerfield Lions Club presents its 4th Annual Trivia Night to benefit St John UCC in Summerfield on Sat, April 8. Doors open at 6 pm and play starts at 7 pm. Silent auction, 50/50 raffle, bake sale, and lunch available. Drinks must be purchased there. Cost is \$100 per table with a max of 10 per table. Contact Mindy Schiefer at 618-444-2852 or Barb Baer at 618-795-0746.

Alhambra Salem UCC Exhale Youth Group presents Trivia Night on April 8 beginning at 6 pm. Doors open at 5 pm. Silent auction, 50/50 and more. Prizes for winners. Soda & water for sale. Bring your own snacks. Players \$10 with 10/table. Contact Becca if you would like to donate to the Silent Auction or for tickets at rjbraundmeier@gmail.com or 618-520-0185

Region 8

The Congregations and Pastors of Region 8 of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ invite everyone to attend the Region 8 Easter Vigil Service of Word & Sacrament on Holy Sat, April 15 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon. Rev. Shana Johnson, Designated Conference Minister of the ISC, will be the guest preacher for this wonderful service. Allow this Easter Vigil Service to transform the darkness of Good Friday into the Resurrection Joy of an Empty Tomb! Everyone is welcome here!

Sat, April 22, 2017 from 9 am - 2 pm, St John UCC in Mascoutah will hold its 38th Annual Quilt Show with 200+ quilts. Bed turning at 9:45 am; quilting demonstrations at 10:45 am, 11:30 am, 12:15 pm and 1 pm. Items for sale. Raffle prize drawing for the youth quilt, "Secret Life of Pets" with all proceeds donated to DuBois Center. Raffle tickets available at the quilt show. Attendance prizes awarded. Lunch available. \$3 admission. Contact Kay Ostrom at 618-566-8776 or ostromdk@charter.net.

