

Weekly Connection

For the Week of May 7, 2017 - May 13, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



**The Amazing People of ISC....
OCWM DOLLARS PRODUCE RESULTS!** Three members of St. Peter UCC, Hookdale attended the 2017 Day of Discipleship, sponsored in part by contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission. They were so inspired they came back to Hookdale, and things have never been the same. Every Sunday morning, Terry Linton prepares a hot dish, cookies or cake and coffee that the congregants share in the rear of the church as they continue fellowship time following worship. Marvin Linton, Terry Linton, Jon Linton, and Barb Sanders created a beautiful setting for Easter worship. Asked if their sanctuary always looked this beautiful on Easter, one replied, "no, we were inspired by the Day of Discipleship workshops." These pictures will give you an idea of what can happen in your small (30-35 member) church.



Pastor David Krueger's last Sunday at Concordia United Church of Christ, Belleville, was Sunday, April 30. He was in ministry at Concordia UCC for ten years. Pastor David has been called as Pastor and Teacher at Zion UCC Metropolis and will begin his ministry there June 1st.

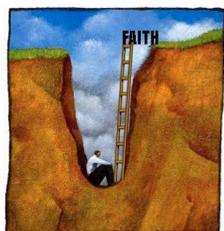
(Collage of photos left) Bittersweet moments on his last Sunday at Concordia UCC in Belleville as Pastor David talks to the children about how life is always changing, yet God's presence and grace never changes.

(Photo right) Pastor David, Treila and family recreate the family picture they took when Pastor David started his ministry at Concordia UCC.

Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. Your support of OCWM helps support ministry and work of Conferences supporting search committees in times of transitions and calling a new pastor.



St. Peter's UCC in Murphysboro voted April 23 to become an Open and Affirming Congregation. We congratulate them for being a church that welcomes everyone. They are the sixth ONA church in the Illinois South Conference. Other ONA churches in ISC are Brighton St. John's UCC, Cahokia Bethel UCC, Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd, Central City Zion UCC, and Fairview Heights St. John UCC.



Stuck. We all know people that have gotten stuck, not able to move beyond what happened in the past. You can quickly recognize these people by the stories they tell themselves and anyone else who will listen.

I think of the young man I knew who thought he was destined for a career in football, but he blew out his knee in college. He never got over it, never finished his degree, and to this day

Important Links

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duboiscenter.org

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[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

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[LIFE Program](#)

[Neighborhood Houses](#)

[New Athens Home](#)

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

[St. Paul's Home](#)

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Pray for...

**Prayer list for
May 7 - May 13, 2017
Churches & Pastors**

- Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Jean Carmean, Interim Pastor
- Troy Friedens UCC, Rev. Douglas (Rev. Jill) Seagle

talks about his injury, the surgeries he endured and the rehab he went through as if it were yesterday instead of ten years ago.

I think of the woman whose husband cheated on her and went through a very public divorce. Twenty years later, her ex-husband has moved on from the shame and disgrace of it all and has sought in every possible way to make amends, while she still picks at the bones of hurt, jealousy, and rage.

I also think of the man whose business partner (someone he mentored) talked his own board into firing him and making his partner the head of the company. It was a horrible ordeal. Yet, while he should be enjoying retirement and precious time with his family, he is nursing old wounds.

Consider some of the synonyms for the word stuck-- fixed, fastened, glued or pinned. The persons and situations I mentioned above are examples of people who are stuck. Fixed to their pain and hurt. Fastened tightly to the stories they believe will forever defined them. Glued to a narrative they believe cannot change. Pinned to the past, not able to imagine or believe there is a possibility for change and new possibilities ahead.

When we are stuck, we cannot look ahead to the future. We cannot see the road of possibility and redemption ahead, because we are too fixated on looking in the rear view mirror. Churches can also greatly suffer from this malady of being stuck.

Christian speaker and author Tim Storey names it as the "nurse it, curse it, and rehearse it" syndrome. He wisely says that people are stuck in a moment from their past by their inability to go back and "fix" the situation. That's when they "nurse it, curse it and rehearse it."

Recently, I have noticed how many churches are stuck in a "nurse it, curse it and rehearse it" cycle. Their conversations center on the past, nursing a past hurt, conflict or unfortunate set of circumstances. They curse the situations they believe have been and will continue to be the source of all of their disappointments and challenges. Paralyzed by the past, they continue to rehearse the stories of pain, suffering, hurt, disappointment, failure, and regret.

Please don't get me wrong. There is a time and place for "nursing" our wounds. Yet, there is also a time and place to embrace the healing grace of God and to begin to see and accept this does not have to be the rest of the story. The good news we celebrate, especially in this Easter season, is the resurrection. It reminds us that whatever we are dealing with, this is not the end of the story.

We do not have to be stuck in a moment. The truth is that none of us can go back and fix a situation in the past. However, we can move forward if we are able to live in the possibility of the now and the hope of the not yet. This is what it means to be Easter people and to be people of the resurrection. It is trusting in the resurrection promise that God is not finished with us yet.

There is more to our stories God is waiting to write. We can become unstuck when we let go of the past and reach for the future God has in store for us. And when we do, we are able to seek God's strength and guidance in moving us beyond the pain, suffering, hurt, disappointment, failure and regret. We can move forward to the hope, healing and the beauty of new beginnings.

Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana: My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

May 7

Preaching at St. Paul UCC, Columbia

May 14

Preaching at Salem UCC, Alhambra

June 4

Preaching at Grantfork UCC for their 145th Anniversary

June 11

Preaching at Fieldon UCC for their 150th Anniversary

I am currently planning my worship schedule for September, 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.**

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Dr. Richard & Johann Ellerbrake, Lebanon, IL

People with Life Concerns

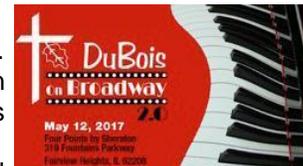
- Pray for Kay (Bill) Ahaus as she recuperates from surgery. Kay is a member of Highland Evangelical UCC and a member of the ISC Justice & Witness Team. She also served as General Synod Delegate in 2015. Cards may be sent to 200 Rinderer Road, Trenton, IL 62293.

- 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.

DuBois on Broadway 2.0 Is Almost Here!

As of this day, there are 86 silent auction items thus far listed already in the program book. If you still wish to donate a silent auction basket or item, please contact Norma Borgmann at 618-292-4617 as soon as possible. We want to have adequate space on auction tables for the additional entries plus have the description/donor sheet ready for the evening. We are grateful to ALL people and/or churches who have already donated silent and oral auction entries as well as those who have given monetary contributions at all levels.



The DuBois on Broadway 2.0 Executive Committee

Norma Borgmann nborgmann1658@charter.net 618-292-4617

Rick Porter rkp@agtelco.com 618-978-8765

Rev. Jerry Amiri jerryamiri@hotmail.com 618-488-3215

Photos of more oral auction items are below.



#1



#2



#3



#1 Two children's picnic tables built by Rick Porter and donated by Rick and Kathy Porter.

#2 Certificate for overnight stay for 2, two spa admissions, two 25-minute Swedish massages, Spumante and hors d'oeuvres, restaurant credit for dinner and breakfast donated by Norma Borgmann.

#3 One-night stay for two at the Four Points by Sheraton in Fairview Heights, which includes overnight accommodations and breakfast donated by Four Points by Sheraton.



#4



#5



#6



#7

#4 Gift certificate tree with 14 gift cards to restaurants, gas station, and Lowe's donated by St. John Evangelical UCC Church family.

#5 Rocking horse built by Rick Porter and donated by Rick and Kathy Porter.

#6 Fire Pit with lots of accessories, 2 lawn chairs and several products donated by St. John Evangelical UCC Youth Ministries.

#7 Four children's chairs in bright colors built by Rick Porter and donated by Rick and Kathy Porter.



#8



#9



#10



#11

#8 Live Japanese Maple tree donated by Gene and Ruth Augustin from Highland Evangelical UCC.

#9 Gift certificate for a flowering bush of your choice donated by Virginia Ilch, member of Godfrey Evangelical UCC.

#10 Canoe (photo not actual donation) donated by Pastor Tom Ellison, DuBois St. Mark's UCC.

#11 "Go Cards!" is a quilted throw measuring 52" x 66", hand-made and donated by Nancy Eisenhauer, Fairview Heights St. John UCC.

Good Shepherd of Faith and the ISC Hunger Action Committee are sponsoring a Raised-bed Community Gardening Workshop on Thurs, May 18 from 11 am - 1 pm at 1514 Kansas Ave in E St. Louis. Lunch provided. Attendance is free, but registration is requested (for lunch count). Call Pastor Norma Patterson at 618-271-

9770 or Margie Lindhorst at 618-281-4090 or mlind@htc.net. Good Shepherd of Faith began their raised-bed garden in May 2016, with the mission of growing vegetables to provide healthy food and enhance the lives of their neighbors. They are also planting a fruit tree orchard. In 2016, they received grants from the ISC Hunger Action Fund, St. Clair County "Get Up and Grow," and St. Louis Composting. Member and retired E. St. Louis Police Officer, Milton Jones, has been an enthusiastic leader in this mission of GSOF. Pastor Norma and Milton want to spread this mission to surrounding churches and invite you to an inspiring day in "the garden."



The Challenge of Modern Biblical Scholarship

by Scott Holl, reprinted from *UCC Roots*

The young professor was less than thirty years old, but in 1870 he was invited to teach biblical theology at Eden Theological Seminary's predecessor in Marthasville, Missouri. He brought excellent teaching skills and an academic background steeped in the latest biblical scholarship. He used the historical critical method of biblical interpretation, examining biblical texts in their original historical, cultural, and social contexts to understand their meaning.

His approach to scripture was largely unknown in the U.S. It was controversial. Although the Board of Directors of the Seminary supported his progressive scholarship and gave him a vote of confidence, wider church leaders were concerned. After he published an article presenting a symbolic interpretation of the temptation story in Genesis 3, an investigation was demanded.

That professor was Karl Emil Otto (1837-1916), born in Mansfeld, Saxony and educated at the University of Halle. He originally came to the U.S. in 1865 to accept a call from the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod. Within a year he left the Lutherans and became the pastor of St. Paul's German Evangelical Church in Columbia, Illinois and later a professor. Although Otto was a very popular teacher, in 1880 the Evangelical Synod of North America General Conference censured him. He resigned his teaching position and formally left the denomination. It was the first and only time the Evangelical Synod of North America conducted a heresy trial.

Yet, the church refused to censure his legacy or the influence he had on a new generation of pastors. Later Otto was reinstated in the denomination and taught for years at Elmhurst College, where most German Evangelical pastors prepared for seminary. The gentle spirit of tolerance that respected and supported Karl Emil Otto reflects a distinctive German Evangelical trait. Today, Otto's academic genius and forward thinking is widely acknowledged and appreciated within the United Church of Christ.



A Ministry of Illinois South Conference
of the United Church of Christ



MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome Laura Renken to the 2017 summer staff team! Laura hails from Hamel, Illinois and is a member of Salem UCC in Alhambra, where she sings in the praise team choir. She has also served as a Vacation Bible School volunteer for at least the last 5 years. Laura attended summer camp at DuBois Center for a number of years. She completed our Counselors in Training (CIT) Program in 2014 and last summer volunteered as a cabin counselor. When not at camp, Laura is student at Eastern Illinois University where she is studying elementary education. She also works at the front desk of her dorm. Her favorites include: smell - spearmint, color - sky blue, food - tacos, and she loves to sing. Her favorite childhood memories include summers swimming at her grandparents' and coming to camp. "I loved coming to Camp DuBois growing up, and it was always a dream of mine to work here when I got older. I always felt that this was a place of love and acceptance where I could really be myself. I wanted to have the opportunity to make Camp DuBois that place for other people as well. I am excited to make memories with everyone and to be a part of such a loving community. I am excited to get to know my campers and to play games and sing songs. I am excited that God has granted me the opportunity to work in a place that means so much to me." **Your OCWM monies at work.**

2017 Theme

Do It for the Vine
John 15:5-11 *Connecting through Christ*

In the story of the vine and the branches, we learn that we have two responsibilities: staying connected to the vine and bearing fruit. Join us this summer as we discover ways to do both! With daily scriptures to guide us, we will explore the vineyard and ways to experience God's love as we grow as branches. We'll practice seeing with our hearts, listening for

God and reconnecting with Jesus, ourselves and friends at camp. It will be a grand adventure, grounded by deep roots and braced by our strong vine - Jesus Christ. **Your OCWM monies at work.**





QUILTS for Fall Festival

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 or full 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 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.

HIGH SCHOOL WEEK

June 18-23

Older youth (completed grades 8-12) take over the Rustic Village June 18-23. Two great options - Wrangler and X-Plore! Highlights of the week include great experiences with your family group, meaningful worship and study times, and choice activities to customize your week. Choice activities are a great way to spend time doing things you love - or maybe discovering a new passion - while making new friends or hanging out with old friends in other family groups. Opt to climb a tree, ride horseback in "the bottoms," get super crafty, fish at Deer Run or get "sporty" with International staff. Adventure Tree is back! Meals on Rustic are back! In fact, this year most meals during this week will be served in the Rustic Village - less walking, more community time! For details, pick up a brochure in your church office, click [here](#) for the online version or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. Ready to register? Click [here](#). Don't delay - sessions are filling quickly. **Your OCWM monies at work.**



JOB OPENING - Summer Barn Coordinator

Enjoy working with children?

Have significant experience with horses and barn management?

Apply **NOW** to be a member of the DuBois

Center summer staff team. We are searching for a hard-working, early-rising, horse-loving individual to lead our summer barn team. General [information](#) and the position [description](#) are available [online](#) or by contacting 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org



BUDDY to BUDDY Mission Experience

During this close-to-home mission experience, teens encounter God as they participate together with young people from Hoyleton's 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 dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. **Space is limited!**

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

Join us in historic Maestown for the annual Hoyleton Hike & Bike, Sat, May 13, 9 am - noon. Choose a two or five mile route to walk, run or cycle. Registration includes an event T-shirt and hearty lunch. All proceeds benefit Hoyleton Youth & Family Services Summer Programs for residential clients. Hosted by St. John's UCC of Maestown. Sponsorship opportunities available! Register [online](#). For more information contact Dave Henerfauth at 618-935-2354 or Darla Rennegarbe at 618-688-4770 or drennegarbe@hoyleton.org



Emmaus

Chaplain Needed: Emmaus Homes is searching for a Chaplain to serve in our western service provision area, including Warren and Franklin counties. This position reports directly to Rev. Cindy Bumb, Vice President of Spiritual Care. Responsibilities include worship, sacrament, Bible study leadership, spiritual care and case management, community outreach, and leadership development. Must hold UCC ordained minister standing, licensure, or UCC privilege of call. Experience working in a health or human service organization a plus. This is a full-time position with benefits. Emmaus Homes is related to the UCC through

membership in the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries. We provide around the clock support services to almost 300 adults with developmental disabilities in four Missouri counties. We encourage candidates to apply [online](#) or you may send a profile or resume to Erin Zimmermann, Recruiting Manager, Emmaus Homes, 3731 Mueller Road, St. Charles, MO 63301. Deadline for applications is May 10, 2017.

St. John's Community Care is celebrating Older Americans Month on Wed, May 17 at 11 am at the St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville with a special worship service. The service will be followed by a lunch in St. John's Faith Hall. The 60's Chicks Entertainment for all to enjoy following lunch.

Winner! Winner! Chicken Dinner! Enjoy any menu item at Ravanelli's, #26 Collinsport Dr, Collinsville on Wed, May 10 from 4 pm - 9 pm and help raise money for St. John's Community Care. That night, 25% of every customer's bill will benefit St. John's Community Care. Click [here](#) for the coupon which MUST accompany the meal. Dine in only will count.



What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

St. Paul Columbia will host Walking in Wisdom, a labyrinth workshop, on Sat, May 20 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am presented by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell at the Columbia Community Labyrinth. Learn about labyrinths and the traditions of "walking meditation." Explore how you may grow spiritually through this Way of Wisdom. No previous experience needed! No religious background needed! All are welcome! For more information, contact Margie Lindhorst at 618-281-4090. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE + ACTION

Sponsored by United Congregations of Metro-East

BOOK STUDY #1 will discuss *SMALL GREAT THINGS: A NOVEL* 2016 by Jodi Picoult.

On Wednesdays, May 3 and 17 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the O'Fallon 1st United Methodist Church.

An excerpt from the back cover: "Ruth Jefferson, a labor and delivery nurse begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?" Read [more](#).

Rainbow Camp Registration is now open. Rainbow Camp is Aug. 12, 2017 at DuBois Center, from 9 am - 7 pm. You can ride a horse, paddle a canoe, take a pontoon ride, make several crafts, shoot some arrows, catch a fish and a lot more, while making a bunch of new friends. The day will wrap up with a bbq dinner on the patio of Oak Lodge overlooking the lake. Rainbow Camp is for everyone in the LGBTQ community and straight allies. Register [online](#) now to get the early bird discount. See the camp [flyer](#) for more information.



Hunger Action Committee Workshop Series

Food Ministry Leaders are invited to an information-sharing event sponsored by the ISC Hunger Action Committee on May 9 from 11:30 am - 2 pm at the Community Interfaith Food Pantry, 1218 West Main, Belleville. Lunch will be provided by Christ UCC in Belleville.

Please RSVP to Margie Lindhorst at mlind@htc.net or 618-281-4090 to provide them with a head count for lunch. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

The Community Interfaith Food Pantry will share some of its successes. It dedicated its new home at 1218 W. Main in Belleville. In the old facility, patrons were crowded out the front door. Volunteers ran into each other trying to navigate carts through the small rooms and the limited storage space filled up fast. Generous donors, their hard-working board and volunteers and a generous grant from the Alan Shawn Feinstein

Foundation made possible the current spacious facility in a visible and accessible location on West Main. The Pantry is open 4 days a week.

Who and what is the Feinstein Foundation and can you apply for a grant? Come to the workshop to learn more.

Job Opportunity:



Deaconess Foundation is searching for a Director of Advocacy. The Director of Advocacy stewards strategic communications to advance the foundation's public policy agenda for child well-being. The Director will establish and maintain relationships with targeted constituents, policymakers, researchers and media through personal contact and media platforms. S/he will support the CEO in development and implementation of the organization's leadership strategy and annual communications plans. To learn more about this opportunity including responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply, visit the Deaconess Foundation [website](#).

Job Opportunity:

A Coordinator of Christian Education is open at St. Paul UCC in Belleville. The job requires 25 hours/week and pays \$25,000 annually. Benefits are to be determined. The Coordinator of Christian Education helps plan, coordinate and implement Christian education and faith development programs for all ages according to the requirements of the Safe Church policy. Read [more](#). Contact Rev. Robert Koepcke at rkoepcke@stpaulucc.org.



Eden Church in Edwardsville will host a Pastor Resource Day presented by Gift of Voice on Wed, July 19 from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. This unique forum focuses on personal wellness, community collaboration and making an eternal difference.

In addition to our phenomenal keynote speakers, topics include Healthy Leadership, Suicide Prevention, Integrated Healthcare, Trauma-Informed Ministry and Christ-Centered Advocacy. Speakers are Nanette Larson, DMH, and Carlton Speight, SAMHSAC. Cost is \$10. Click [here](#) for registration form.

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a summer semester online UCC History, Polity and Theology class beginning on May 31 and ending August 16. The class has met the polity requirements of most Committees on Ministry in the UCC, and has been accepted as a for credit course over nine seminaries, including Union (NYC), Vanderbilt, Candler, Columbia, Lexington, Eden, and Lancaster and a number of others. Both Lancaster and Union list this course in their catalogs.

It is a rigorous, engaging class that is convenient for those who are bi-vocational, have full schedules, or odd sleep habits! It is designed to meet the needs of students with different learning styles and varying levels of formal education. The facilitators for the class are fully engaged and available throughout the class to the students. The course has evolved and adapted over the years to the changes in the UCC and the changing needs of those seeking authorization for ministry.

Tim Downs, who will be the lead instructor, has been teaching this course for almost 20 years, and online for the last seven years. Heather Bardole will be the lead facilitator for the course. Heather has worked with Tim in facilitating this class for six years; is a MID with the Southeast Conference; and currently serves as the administrator of the Southeast Conference. Laura Robinson, a MID in the Pacific Northwest and a graduate of Candler School of Theology, will be the assistant facilitator for the class.

Students taking the class for credit need to contact Tim Downs. Certificates of Completion are issued for all students who successfully complete the requirements for the class. Letters with a grade and summary assessment of the student's performance in the class for Committees on Ministry are available upon request. Any questions can be directed to Tim Downs, the lead instructor, at timothy.c.downs@gmail.com and click [here](#) to register.

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](#).

Region 4

St. John UCC in Wood River is hosting a monthly "spiritual retreat" on one Saturday each month led by A Place of Grace creative director Julie Gvillo, a Reiki Master Practitioner and Teacher, Certified Zentangle Instructor and Presbyterian Church (USA) Christian Educator.

May's spiritual retreat will be Sat, May 13, 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Come and rest in the arms of Jesus for a few minutes or a few hours. Free of charge and is supported through free will offerings.

Region 4 will hold their quarterly meeting at St. John UCC Wood River from 1 pm - 3 pm on Thurs, May 11.

Region 8

New Athens St. John's UCC will hold its Chicken Dinner on May 7 from 11 am - 2 pm. Drive through open 11 am - 1 pm. All you care to eat includes fresh fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, slaw, dessert, and drink. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 10 years \$5; Children under 5 Free.

Region 9

Chicken Dinner & Strawberry Festival will be held at Concordia UCC in Belleville (Millstadt) on Sun, June 4 from 11 am - 3 pm. Menu includes fried chicken with all the "fixins." Dine-in and carry-outs, call 618-476-3377. Adults \$11; Children 6-12 - \$5.50; Children 5 & Under free.

VBS - June

June 19 - 23; 8:45 am - 12 pm; Mascoutah St. John UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

June 19 - 23; 6 pm; Dinner at 5 pm - 5:45 pm. Troy Friedens UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

June 19 - 23; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Belleville Concordia UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

VBS - July

July 9 - 13; 6 pm - 8 pm; Granite City St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 10 - 14; 9 am - 12 pm; Collinsville St. John Evangelical

St. John UCC in Wood River is having their annual Plant and Bake Sale on Sat, May 6 from 9 am to 2 pm. Hanging baskets, potted geraniums, and more will be available for purchase, as well as a variety of delicious homemade baked goods.

Wood River St. John UCC will host an "All You Can Eat" Spaghetti Supper on Thurs, May 18 from 4 pm to 7 pm. Adults \$8; Children 5-12 yrs \$4; and Children under 5 yrs eat free (dine-in only). Meal includes "all you can eat" spaghetti, salad, Italian bread, drink and your choice of a delicious dessert. Visa and Mastercard accepted. Handicap accessible and carry-outs available upon request.

Region 5

St. Jacob United Church of Christ will host its Strawberry Festival on May 21 from 10 am - 3 pm at the Township Park in St. Jacob. Music, crafters, jump houses. Entertainment for the kids. Lunch available: brats, hot dogs, chicken kabobs and strawberry desserts. Berry Bike Ride sponsored by trailnet. Register at www.trailnet.org.

Quilt Raffle Chances \$1 or 6/\$5. Bake sale and craft sale. **Note: Chicken is fried in peanut oil.*

VBS - May

May 22 - 26; 9 am - 12 pm; Waterloo St. Paul UCC; *Cokesbury's Super Hero Central*

VBS - June

June 5 - 9; 9 am - 11:30 am; Fieldon UCC;

June 5 - 9; 9 am - 12 pm; Columbia St. Paul UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

June 5 - 9; 8:30 am - 11:30 am; Okawville St. Peter's UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

June 5 - 9; 9 am - 11 am; Highland Evangelical UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

June 5 - 9; 8:30 am - 11:30 am; Valmeyer St. John UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

June 10; 9 am - 4 pm with Family Carnival from 4 pm - 6 pm; Belleville St. Paul UCC; Superhero theme.

June 12 - 16; 9 am - 12 pm; Maeystown St. John UCC; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God!*

June 12 - 16; 9 am - 12 pm; Freeburg St. Paul's UCC in cooperation with the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Freeburg; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God!*

UCC; *Rome: Paul and the Underground Church.*

July 9 - 13; 6 pm - 8 pm; Granite City St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 17 - 21; 6 pm - 8:20 pm; Red Bud St. Peter UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 17 - 21; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; O'Fallon UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

July 17 - 21; 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm; at Centralia St. Peter UCC including 1st Christian Church, 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st United Methodist Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Zion UCC, and St. Peter UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 23 - 26; 5:15 pm - 8 pm; at Metropolis St. Rose Catholic Church joint VBS with Metropolis Zion UCC; *Campout, Getting S'more of Jesus.*

July 24 - 28; 9 am - 11:30 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Rome: Paul and the Underground Church.* Lunch at 11:30 am as part of the summer lunch program for kids through St. Louis Food Bank.

July 24 - 28; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Jerseyville Peace UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 30 - August 3; 6 pm - 8 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*