

Weekly Connection

For the Week of May 14, 2017 - May 20, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

The Amazing People of ISC....

Sunday, May 7 was a special day at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville as they dedicated their new sanctuary altar. Creating a beautiful, more functional altar was a project that involved many people in the church working towards a common goal. A St. Paul UCC member, Laura Strohm-Armstrong, designed the altar so that it can be separated into three separate sections and rolled away making space on the chancel for concerts and other special events. Congratulations to everyone in the church who helped make this dream project a reality.



Left: Rev. Robert Koepcke, St. Paul UCC's intentional interim, led the dedication of the altar.

Right: Laura Strohm-Armstrong, a member of the church, was the designer of the new sanctuary altar.

Fishing and Faith

A grandfather took his grandson out fishing for the first time.

The grandfather taught the grandson all the tricks of the trade.

The best way to bait the hook.

The best way to cast the line.

The best way to tell if you were in a good fishing spot.

The best way to tell if there was a fish nibbling on the bait.

And even the best way to reel a fish in.

But the grandfather forgot one very important lesson.

As they stood together in silence fishing.

Seconds turned into minutes.

Minutes turned into hours.

Still they caught nothing.

While they were waiting, a couple walking near the lake passed by them. The woman asked the little boy, "Are you fishing? How is it going?" The little boy quickly replied, "I am not sure. Grandpa told me we are fishing, but I think I am just drowning worms."

Do you know the important lessons about fishing that the grandfather forgot to teach his grandson? There is a lot of preparation, waiting, and disappointment in fishing.

As fishermen, some of Jesus' first disciples should have known these same principles would apply to following Jesus. Yet, how quickly they forgot. As we consider the story of the Risen Lord appearing to the disciples on the shores of Galilee, I am surprised that once again they have forgotten the ups and downs of the faith life. There is much preparation needed, quite a bit of waiting, sprinkled with moments of disappointment.

In John 21: 1-19, we encounter the story of Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, and John as they have gone out fishing all night, but catching nothing.



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
May 14 - May 20, 2017
Churches & Pastors**

- Valmeyer St. John UCC, Rev. David (Kathy) Riebeling
- Waterloo St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dr. James (Thelma Burgonio-

Perhaps they think that after Jesus' death, they will simply go back to their old lives and their previous vocations. They come back early in the morning, tired and frustrated.

On the shore stands Jesus. His call to them is to go back and try again. Jesus gives them instructions as to the next step. He tells them to put the nets out of the right side of the boat. They follow his instructions. Lo and behold, for a second time, they encounter a miraculous catch in the presence of Jesus. Once again, they have been slow to recognize the presence of Christ in their midst. This is yet another example of how the disciples do not fully understand the power of Christ.

What I find so endearing about such stories of the disciples is how easy we can see ourselves in them. After Jesus' death and even his resurrection, they essentially forgot who they were and whose they were. They became too frightened, too overwhelmed to see that the power of the Risen Christ could continue to work through them if they were faithful in living out the love of Christ.

Sometimes in the church, we like the first disciples, have moments when we forget who we are and whose we are. We know we have been sent out to fish, but it feels like we are just drowning worms. We fret about the work to which we have been called. We wring our hands, focusing on what we do not have instead of the abundance. We make it too difficult. We become distracted by projects and programs that in the end will do nothing to bring more light, joy, grace, and love into the world.

If only we could remember the principles of fishing and apply them to our shared faith lives. In the Church, we need to remember there is much preparation needed, quite a bit of waiting, sprinkled with moments of disappointment. Yet, the glorious good news is when we continue to be about the "fishing" work, we will encounter the Risen Christ in our midst. If we open our eyes to truly see how the Spirit is working around us, we see the small miracles of the divine.

May our eyes and lives be open to recognizing the Risen Christ in our midst,
Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

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

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

June 25

Preaching at St. Peter UCC, Centralia

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.**

Watson), Sr. Pastor
- Waterloo St. Paul UCC, Rev. Merlyn(Oliver) Lawrence, Assoc. Pastor

People with Life Concerns

- 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.



The Insurance Board often offers free webinars to give you the latest on keeping your church and the members safe.

[Here are some upcoming webinars:](#)

Risk Management for Keeping Youth Safe at Camps

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Click [here](#) to register.

Fire Prevention and Protection for Churches

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Click [here](#) to register.

Keeping your Ministries Safe: 5 Things Churches Can Do to Prevent Abuse

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time) Click [here](#) to register.

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 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](#).

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.



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

MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome Kalaba Kapunda to the 2017 summer staff team! Originally from Kitwe, Zambia, Kalaba lived in South Africa for the last nine years and is now a student at Eden Theological Seminary. After a successful career in community development in the private and non-profit sectors, he felt a call to ordained ministry. That call led him to study for his Masters of Divinity at Eden. Back home, Kalaba was actively involved in his home church - Jerusalem United Methodist Church. Through his church and other organizations, he has facilitated youth groups, served as a soccer coach and worked as the youth choir director at an orphanage. Kalaba also did a short stint as a high school teacher - one of the options for mandatory government service.

He is the father of his three young sons (seven, four and two years old). His family will be joining him at Eden in the fall. In his free time, Kalaba enjoys sports, particularly soccer and volleyball. He also enjoys walking, being outside, participating in community work, singing and reading. Kalaba likes all kinds of food, but especially Pap - a favorite from South Africa, fish, rice, goat meat and vegetables. Kalaba is excited to exchange ideas and explore diversity with the campers and staff while at DuBois Center this summer. He believes "diversity can help us respect and celebrate our lives". He is looking forward to building a team, meeting new friends, and playing together "in an attempt to create understanding, trust, and respect..." **Your OCWM monies at work.**



HORSE CAMPS - There's still time!

Our Horse Camps are filling quickly, but there are still great options for most age groups. Some mornings, it's up and at 'em long before chow time - the horses need to be fed and groomed before breakfast. Some evenings, it's untacking, feeding and barn chores before evening games. As long as the weather allows, horse

campers have the option to ride each day! They spend more time with the ponies, but still have time for other camp favorites such as swimming, 9-Square and crafts. Younger campers can hop aboard the Pony Express for an introduction to horse camp. Older campers can choose from a variety of sessions. Ready to register online? Click [here](#). For more information, check out the camp [brochure](#) online at www.DuBoisCenter.org or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 to have one sent to you.

PONY EXPRESS (completed grades 4-5) July 23-26

HORSIN' AROUND (completed grades 5-7) June 11-16; July 9-14; July 16-21

SADDLE 'EM UP (completed grades 7-9) June 25-30 - FULL; July 16-21

WRANGLERS (completed grades 8-12) - June 18-23 **Your OCWM monies at work.**





Make a Difference VOLUNTEER

This summer you can make a difference in the life of a young person! In as few as three hours or as long as a week or two, you can help a child feel welcome and valued. DuBois Center is seeking passionate, patient, faithful and fun-loving individuals to join our

summer camp team. Volunteers serve as counselors, nurses, barn helpers, resource people, activity leaders, photographers and Sunday Welcome Team members. Make a difference this summer - Join Us! Contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. Church Leaders: Who in your congregation might answer the call? Who has gifts to share with young people? Whose life might be enriched by the experience? Send us your recommendations via email or by using this [form](#).

WELCOME TEAM - Join Us! June 11, 25, July 9, 16, 23

On these five Sundays, scores of UCC campers will arrive at DuBois Center eager and excited to begin their time at camp. A minimum of 12 volunteers each of these Sundays plus summer staff are needed to make the check-in process run smoothly! Volunteers assist with greetings, parking, the camp store, registration, health screenings, dock duty and people-moving. They arrive by 1:15 pm and are done by 4 pm. Please consider joining our Sunday Welcome Team on one or more check-in days. You are invited to wear a church t-shirt and show your spirit. Even consider bringing a team from your church! Let us know in advance when you can help; contact the DuBois office at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.



THANKS to the Happy Quilters and St. John UCC, Mascoutah

Remember the super cute "Max & Duke" quilt? The Happy Quilters of St. John UCC in Mascoutah raised \$2003 toting it from church to church and selling tickets this spring. St. John UCC matched the amount raised dollar for dollar, bringing the total donation to \$4006. AMAZING!



Thanks so much to Kay, Nancy, Marion, Treva, Muriel and Beth for all their hard work and to St. John UCC for their support. Thanks also to the following churches for hosting the traveling quilt on a Sunday morning: Christ UCC, Dupou; St John UCC, Fairview Heights; St John UCC, Trenton; St. Paul UCC, Lebanon; St Peter's UCC, Okawville; and Zion UCC, New Baden. The traveling team... "enjoyed meeting new people and worshipping with them; they were so welcoming and supportive. It is a great experience." Ticket sales wrapped up at the church's annual Quilt Show in April, which was again quite the event with over 200 quilts on display and activities for novice and skilled quilters alike. The lucky winner was Michael Engelman of Mascoutah. "He was very excited (well, as much excitement as you will see from a teen-ager)." The big winner was DuBois Center.

2017 Theme

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

SPREAD the WORD

Some say DuBois Center is one of the best kept secrets in Southern Illinois. Here are some easy ways to

- help spread the word about our programs and facilities.
- Include a link to www.DuBoisCenter.org on your web site.
- Encourage your members to add us as a friend on Facebook or follow us on Instagram.
- Promote events, such as Summer Camp, on your church sign board.
- Utilize DuBois Center bulletin [inserts](#). Just copy, cut and stuff or include in your newsletter.
- Post the summer camp [schedule](#) on bulletin boards and on your web site.
- Post our facility [brochure](#) on your web site.

To receive paper copies of these documents, contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

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 Maeystown 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 Maeystown. 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

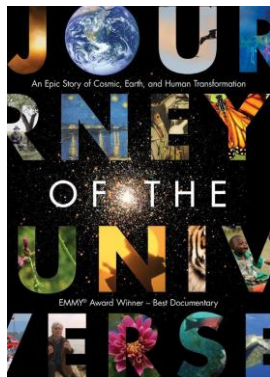


St. John's Community Care is celebrating Older Americans Month on Wed, May 17 at 11 am at the St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville with a special worship service. The service will be followed by a lunch in St. John's Faith Hall. The 60's Chicks Entertainment for all to enjoy following lunch.

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...



People committed to environmental wellness and awareness are invited to come on **Sunday, July 2 - Saturday, July 8, 2017, to Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center in Abiquiu ("Ah-bi-cue"), New Mexico.** Called "Earth Honoring Faith: Journey of the Universe-An Epic Story for Our Shared Future," the goal of the event is to highlight ecological, justice-centered perspectives that promote interfaith efforts for the well-being of humankind and Earth itself.

A trailer for the Emmy Award-winning 55 minute movie "Journey of the Universe" cited in flyer can be found [online](#) and is available to stream on Amazon Prime. I urge you to read the accompanying interpretive flyer. "Earth Day" is no longer a one day or weekend event. Stewardship and care for the Earth and the environment are increasingly major political/social/economic/ governmental policy issues that have global and lasting effect upon planet Earth and our children's and grandchildren's well-being. In a time of political unrest and uncertainty about the future of environmental and eco-policies, Earth-Honoring Faith marks a

gathering of people committed to make positive impacts on environmental justice issues.

Registrations are underway for Earth-Honoring Faith this July. Go [online](#) or call the Registrar Office at 505-685-1001 or 505-685-1017. Click [here](#) for more information.

Boundary Training is a requirement to maintain your standing with the Illinois South Conference of UCC, and must be completed every 3 years. You should have received notice that your requirement is due this year. If you have questions, contact Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org or call 618-654-2125.

Missouri Mid-South Conference of the UCC has scheduled Boundary Training which can be used to satisfy the requirement for Illinois South Conference pastors as well. The schedule is:

St. Louis Association:

Thursday, May 25, 2017 - Kirkwood UCC
1603 Dougherty Ferry Road, St. Louis, MO 63122
8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Facilitators: Rev. Mark Robinson and TBD

Contact mms@mmsucc.org for registration form. The cost to attend Boundary Training is \$30.00 per person, but is waived for all retired clergy. If you are an Eden seminarian, please be aware that the next boundary training for students will be held in JANUARY 2018.

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.



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.





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.

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.

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.

Region 3

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.

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

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 618-271-9770 or Margie Lindhorst 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

VBS - June

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!*

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

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

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.

Region 8

Zion UCC in New Baden hosts its Drive-Thru Chicken & Dumpling Dinner on May 12 from 4 pm - 7 pm at 414 W Hanover in New Baden. Menu includes chicken & dumplings, salad, green beans, fruit and dessert. Cost \$10.

invite you to an inspiring day in "the garden."

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.

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; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm; New Athens, St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

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!*