

Weekly Connection

For the Week of August 6, 2017 - August 12, 2017
For the Week of August 13, 2017 - August 19, 2017

Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

Annual Meeting Warm Up Event

Chronicles of the UCC:

History, Boundaries, Personalities, and Stories

On October 20, 2017, there will be an opportunity for you to learn more about Illinois South Conference and the United Church of Christ from 9:30 am - 4 pm at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville. Traditionally, this day of education was for the clergy, but this year it is open to everyone. There is much to learn...



1 pm - 4 pm

Storytelling in Worship

presented by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (far left)

9:30 am - 4 pm

The Secret Lives of Pastors

presented by Rev. Shana Johnson (second from left)

9:30 am - 4 pm

Understanding Personalities Through Enneagrams

presented by Dr. Jill Baker (second from right)

9:30 am - 4 pm

History and Governance of UCC

presented by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell (far right)

Click [here](#) to download registration form.

Register online.

Annual Meeting - One-Day Format - October 21, 2017

The annual meeting has been limited to one day to be held at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. The highlights include:

- Worship with Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs
- Honoring of Church Anniversaries during lunch meal
- Honoring Ordination Anniversaries during lunch meal
- Presentation by Deaconess Foundation
- Discussion and vote for ISC structure and Bylaws changes
- Discussion and vote to call Rev. Shana Johnson as Conference Minister
- Discussion and vote on 2018 Budget



Click [here](#) for all delegate materials.

Click [here](#) to register online.



I Am One Who....

When I was still a parish pastor, I was a lectionary preacher and, as such, there were times when I would come to a particular biblical story or passage and say to myself, "Oh no! I don't want to preach on that." For quite a long time, first Samuel - the seventeenth chapter was an example of this.

David and Goliath was one of my least favorite stories. Perhaps it was because of how it was taught to me as a child and/or the disturbing ways I remember it illustrated in my *Children's Bible*. Yet, mostly, it was because I was unsure about how to invite people to reflect on this story without running the risk of conjuring up images that seem to condone war, violence, and triumphant theology. But then I had an "ah-ha" moment. It centered around the point at which David,

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](#)

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[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

Aug 6 - Aug 12, 2017

Churches & Pastors

- Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC,
Pastor Nancy (Scott) Shubert

while preparing to go into battle, makes an important discovery about himself. He makes a brave choice which changes everything. If you remember the story, you remember no one was willing to face Goliath. This is when David comes on the scene. David steps forward and says to Saul, "I can do this." Yet Saul quickly replies, "You? You are not able. You are only a boy." I imagine, at the moment, Saul is doing what many do. He looks at David through the lens of his own experience, his own perception of what should be and asks, "But who are you?" Saul questions David's motive, his credentials, his preparedness, and his authority. "But who are you?" It is a question that each of us will be asked through our lives as individuals and even as churches. This is why I believe David's response can be informative, affirmative, and life giving.

Listen to how David responds.

I am one who has been keeping his father's sheep.

I am one who has been there when a lion or bear came along.

I am one who went after the beast to protect the sheep.

I am one who rescued the sheep from its mouth.

I am one who God delivered from these dangers.

I am one who is certain God will deliver me again.

David speaks clearly and without apology about who he is and whose he is as a servant of God. I find it telling that Saul hears David's truth and he simply responds in saying, "Go and the Lord be with you."

Yet, that is not the end of the story. It usually isn't when it comes to our own internal authority. Saul, perhaps with the best possible intentions, seeks to prepare David for what lies ahead of him. Since Saul only knows the world from his experience, he considered what he would do if he was going into battle...he would put on his own uniform. As the scripture tells us, Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on his body and a bronze helmet on his head. I think Saul's act is a very common one...in trying to help David he ended up dressing David in his own image. I think we have all been guilty of it at times. I know I have.

As David walked around in Saul's shoes for a moment, he quickly realized that they did not feel like him. David knew himself well enough that he knew he would not be comfortable being anyone but himself. For me, this is where the story gets good and has much to teach us. David tried walking around and then finally says to Saul, "I cannot go in these, because I am not used to them." In other words, he is saying to Saul, "I cannot go into this situation being you. This is not me. I only know how to be myself."

Even though it is risky, even though it can take great courage, as individuals and as churches, we need to

hold onto that voice when we must face our own giants, whoever or whatever they may be. As prepared to walk into the unknown places of our lives--fearful or excited--I believe God wants us, like David, to be who we are and whose we are. Then and only then are we able to stand tall and allow God to work through us.

Finally, consider this. After David told Saul, "I cannot go in these." he then took off Saul's armor, picked up his own shepherding staff and headed to the place he knew best. He went to the stream, where he had led his sheep to drink. He bent down and chose five smooth stones. He put them in the pouch of his shepherding bag, and with his slingshot in his hand, he went to literally approach the situation face to face.

David was able to have the confidence to face a very scary situation because he drew from his own experiences, his own knowledge, and his own internal resources. He used the tools of his trade. What prepared him most for the moments ahead would be that, at that particular moment, he knew who he was and whose he was.

As God calls us forth to be servants of God, there are certain to be people in our lives that will turn to us, as Saul did to David, and say, "You cannot do this. You are only...(fill in the blank)." They may question your preparedness, your credentials, your style, your leadership, or your beliefs. They may try to dress you



- DuBois St. Mark's UCC,
Pastor Tom (Marcia) Ellison
Retired Pastor
- Rev. Allan and Rita Mason,
Sandoval, IL

Prayer list for
Aug 13 - Aug 19, 2017
Churches & Pastors

- Dupo Christ UCC, Rev. Todd
(Suzanne) Mushaney
- Dupo First Congregational
UCC, Rev. Dr. Robert E. (Jay)
Lee

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Russell and Doris
Miller, Metropolis, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for the family of Rev.
John (Joanne) Klueter (87) as
they mourn his death on
Sunday. Throughout his 60
years of ministry, he served
UCC congregations mainly in
Illinois - Carpentersville,
Sidney, Petersburg, Breese,
and Jamestown. He also
served 13 different ISC
congregations as Intentional
Interim Minister. Visitation will
be Sat, August 12 in the chapel
at Evangelical UCC in
Highland, IL from 9 -11
am. Funeral services at 11 am
at the Evangelical UCC. Cards
may be sent to Joanne at #29
Korte Dr, Highland, IL 62249.

- Pray for Rev. Merlyn (Oliver)
Lawrence as she mourns the
loss of her brother, Alan Jeftha
(56) in Cape Town , South
Africa. Merlyn is the Associate
Pastor at St. Paul UCC in
Waterloo. Cards may be sent
to her at 101 B Jefferson,
Waterloo, IL 62298.

- Please pray for Priscilla Self
as she recuperates from
surgery. Priscilla works part-
time for DuBois Center. She is
a member of St. Peter's UCC
in Okawville and the ISC
Church & Ministry Church
Committee. Cards may be sent
to her at 12922 County Hwy.
27, Nashville IL 62263.

- Pray for Jeanne (Arnold)
Meyer as she recovers from
serious surgeries and

in their own image. They may try to offer advice, direction, resources, or tools that do not seem fitting for you.

May you be able to find the same courage and strength David did when he took off the clothes someone else wanted him to wear, walked to the place he knew, and chose five smooth stones in order to face the giant. May you, too, be able to find your own strength in your life and calling to be able to boldly proclaim, "I am a servant of God, and the Lord that carried me before will carry me again." Amen.

Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

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

August 6

Preaching at St. Peter's UCC, Murphysboro for their 125th anniversary celebration

August 13

Preaching at Godfrey Congregational UCC

August 27

Preaching at Summerfield St. John UCC/St. Jacob UCC

Shana's worship schedule is full through October 2017. If you would like to invite her to worship with you for November 2017 and beyond, reach out to her at 618-654-2125 (office) or 618-882-8247 (cell) or sjohnson@iscucc.org.

Your OCWM monies at work.



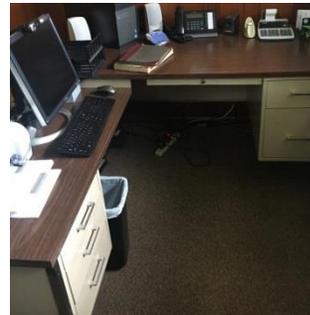
The 2017 Confirmation Retreat will be Fri, Sept. 22 at 7:00 pm through Sat, Sept 23 at 8:00 pm. The theme will be focused on the UCC's vision, **Three Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation.** The retreat will again take place at the beautiful DuBois Center and will be led by the talented and energetic Rev. John Holst from Zion UCC, Marion. Watch for more information in later Weekly Connections and in your email inbox.

Would you like your church to be publicly welcoming to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community? The Open and Affirming process can help your congregation do that, by extending an intentional welcome to those who have often been intentionally shunned by the church. It can go well beyond the LGBTQ community too, by including many others who may have been excluded because of race, nationality, gender, mental or physical ability, or socioeconomic status.

ONA is an educational process that creates a space for conversation that opens hearts and minds. If you'd like to learn more about how to start the ONA conversation in your congregation, call the Conference office for more information.

Free for the Taking

The Illinois South Conference is sprucing up! We have many different styles of furniture - resembling early college decor. We are offering these items to find a good home. If you are interested in using any of these items, please contact Christy at 618-654-2125 or cpursell@iscucc.org. You will need to arrange to pick them up from the Highland office. Items which are not claimed by another owner will be given away in another way.



Brown Table 30" x 20" x 23"

3 - White bookshelves 6' x 24.5" x 1'

1 - Metal desk-L shaped (not items on desk)

complications. She is a member of Highland Evangelical UCC and the sister of Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator.

- Keep Lelynna (Rev. James) Langdoc in your prayers as she recovers from surgery. Rev. Langdoc is a former ISC Associate Conference Minister. Cards may be sent to Lelynna at 2032 Sifield Greens Way #28, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

- Pray for Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders as he continues treatment for ongoing illness. Douglas is currently the Supply Pastor for Belleville Concordia UCC. Cards may be sent to him at 2921 Moniteau, St Louis MO 63121.

- 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.



1 - Computer Table 34.5" x 33" x 20"
- Items on desk not included.



2 - Wooden shelves: 39.5" x 24.5" x 9.5"
There are two of these.



2 - Wing-backed bluish chairs



1 - Black waiting chair



3 - Maroon waiting chair with arms



2 - small pews (from Fayetteville Friedens)



2 - green chairs



8 - Stackable chairs



The saying "lightning does not strike twice in the same place" is untrue. In fact, a building that has been struck by lightning in the past is exponentially more likely to be struck again. **Insurance Board is pleased to introduce a new program to provide premium discounts as an incentive for churches to install or upgrade lightning protection systems.** National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) statistics show that lightning accounts for 4% of all church fires, but 20% of the property damage as a result. If your church is located in a high risk

area geographically or has been struck by lightning in the past, it is very important that you have a lightning protection system installed in accordance to NFPA standards (NFPA 780).

Lightning rod protection systems do not increase the risk of the building being struck, but they do provide a safe way of grounding the lightning and protecting buildings from damage and fire.

Our new incentive is based on giving a premium discount for churches:

- * Installing a new lightning protection system
- * Upgrading current system
- * Giving a credit to churches with such systems, if previous credit was not given.

Contact Patricia Stein at pastein48@frontier.com or 815-635-1139 to find out more. Click [here](#) for flyer.

It's QUILT time!

The clock is ticking... less than 9 weeks till the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival and the much anticipated Quilt Drawing. This year, three beautiful and very different quilts have been donated. One is queen-size, one twin, and one perfect for curling up on the couch. With these gems, we are hoping to raise a minimum of \$2000. You can help by spreading the word! A [flyer](#) with pictures and [tickets](#) are available to assist. You are also invited to sell tickets and display one or more of the quilts at your church on a Sunday morning or during a special event. Contact DuBois Center to reserve a quilt at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



Carpenters Star Quilt



This queen-size classic yet contemporary quilt was hand-pieced and quilted; it measures 96" by 106". Crafted from fabric in shades and patterns of seafoam green and gray, it's a beauty. This quilt was donated by Lucille Brandt and Robert & Linda Schmidt. The quilting is compliments of the quilters at St. Paul UCC in Columbia. Linda, who spearheaded this project, is a member of St. John UCC in Maestown. She is interested in helping the quilt move around the region - for display and ticket sales. Contact Linda Schmidt at roblin@htc.net or 618-458-7725.



Other Fall Festival Activities - Check these out!!

Fall Festival Upscale Resale Shop - Learn [more](#).

Fall Festival Silent Auction - Learn [more](#).



Mother & Daughter Retreat October 13-15

Fall is just around the corner! School, sports, band, clubs and church programs are all picking up steam, making family time even more difficult to find. STOP! You are invited to breathe, slow down and spend quality time with the girls and women in your life at DuBois Center's annual Mother-Daughter Retreat. Engaging activities, inspiring God Time, great fellowship, meals without cooking - all are part of this weekend escape. Participate in everything or choose a more relaxed weekend with board games, knitting and leisurely strolls. Either way, the focus of this retreat is on building relationships and making memories with loved ones! All generations and groupings are welcome: mothers and daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters, aunts and nieces! SAVE THE DATE - October 13-

15. More information will be available soon!

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!



Raising Awareness about Alzheimer's Disease - A special screening of the award-winning documentary, Glen Campbell - I'll Be Me that chronicles music legend Glen Campbell and his farewell "Goodbye Tour" on August 23 at the Granite City Cinema, 1243 Niedringhaus Ave, Granite City. Doors open at 11 am and the movie runs from noon - 2 pm. The film documents this amazing journey as Glen and his family attempt to navigate the wildly unpredictable nature of his progressing disease using love, laughter and music as their medicine of choice. The event is FREE but reservations are required. RSVP to 618-531-9430 or to msmith@hospice.org. Complimentary popcorn and soft drinks. Seating is limited. Sponsored by St. John's Community Care, AARP, and Hospice of Southern Illinois, Inc. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

SAVE THE DATES!!!

#1 - St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Okawville requests you to save the date of Sunday, September 10 to attend the celebration of the 20th anniversary of shared ministry with their pastor, Rev. Jeff Schwab. There will be a special worship service starting at 10 am with a potluck meal at 11:30 am in their fellowship hall. All are invited to attend and help celebrate this wonderful occasion.

#2 - Immanuel United Church of Christ in Carlyle will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, September 17 at the church. More information to follow. All are invited.

GLAUCE 2017 - More than Enough - A Workshop Extravaganza!

Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators

Pastors, Spiritual Formation Leaders, Children's Ministry Volunteers! Here's info about the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators Annual Event to be held October 17-19 at Pokagon State Park in Indiana! Working with all of your input from last year, this event will feature MANY workshops, personal Sabbath time, and networking with colleagues. Link to [online](#) registration is on the [flyer](#). Note that the price includes program/event, lodging and meals.

Sixteen Workshops Including:

- Personal Growth & Development
- Faith Formation
- Sabbath
- Messy Church
- Missions
- Stewardship
- Creativity & Fun
- Worship

The Insurance Board offers free Webinars - Here's what's happening soon

Know Your Score! Abuse Prevention Self Assessment

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 - 2 pm to 3 pm (Eastern Time) - More information [here](#).

Keeping Ministries Safe: 5 Things Churches Can Do

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 - 2 pm to 3 pm (Eastern Time) - More information [here](#).

How to Avoid Background Screening Litigation

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 - 2 pm to 3 pm (Eastern Time) - More information [here](#).

Region 2

New Hanover Zoar UCC in Columbia will host its Annual BBQ on Sat, Aug 5 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Entertainment by George Portz and his Friends of Bluegrass and the "Lightning" Cloggers. Country store with homemade items. Silent auction. Pie auction. Pork steak plate \$10; Brat plate \$8.

Region 3

Metro-East Food Pantry Network invites you to participate in a networking workshop on August 30, at 2 pm, at the University of Illinois Extension Office, #1 Regency Drive, Suite 200, Collinsville, IL. The agenda includes networking with area food pantry leaders and a program on volunteer management presented by Rich Skinner, VP United Way Volunteer Center. All are invited. RSVP to Amy at amyfunk@illinois.edu or 618-344-4230. Click [here](#) for a flyer. Click [here](#) for Metro-East Food Pantry Network's topics of interest.

Region 4

Wood River St. John UCC will host its 3rd Annual All You Can Eat BBQ on Aug 24 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Adults \$9; Children 6 - 10 years \$4.50; Children 5 years and under FREE (dine in only). Menu includes pulled pork, corn on the cob, sliced tomatoes, cole slaw, drinks and dessert. Visa and Mastercard accepted. Handicap accessible. Carry-outs available upon request at adult price.