

Weekly Connection

For the Week of October 29, 2017 - November 4, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



On Tuesday, I finished packing for my trip to Cuba.

On Wednesday, October 25, I will be flying to Miami, Florida to meet up with the Global Ministries delegation that I will be joining on a pilgrimage to Cuba. The purpose of the trip is to give us (four UCC Conference Ministers and four Disciple of Christ Regional Ministers) an opportunity to see and experience the work Global Ministries is doing in Cuba through our mission partners there. It is an opportunity to develop a deeper sense

and appreciation for the joys and challenges of their ministries by learning about the social, political, and economic realities people in Cuba face.

In preparation for the trip, I have been doing quite a bit of reading and watching the news in anticipation that our travel plans might change due to the unpredictable political climate and literal climate of storms and hurricanes. I have also been thinking about what I will bring for the trip referring over and over again to the packing list Global Ministries sent us months ago. When packing for international travel there is the realization that things will not be like they are at home. Quite a few vaccinations were needed as well as the purchase of several items I would not normally bring on a trip.

Last night as I looked at the mounting piles of items I was planning to put in a suitcase and a carry-on bag, I laughed at myself. I am only going on a ten-day trip, but it looks like I am preparing for a month of traveling to some isolated location. I remembered the wonderful advice the Global Ministries representative added at the bottom of the packing list she sent out. She wrote, *"Now that you have all these things laid out to pack, put half of them away or you'll have too much to carry! Be sure you can carry whatever you bring for at least a block or two by yourself. Be prepared to have a marvelous time!"*

For me, her words are reminiscent of Jesus' words as he sends out the disciples on their own missionary efforts. In the ninth chapter of Luke we read of Jesus calling the disciples together and commissioning them with the power and authority to heal and to teach and preach the good news. Before he sends them out with his blessing, he told them,

"Take nothing for the journey - no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." - Luke 9: 3-5

Jesus' instructions are more than simply telling the disciples to pack light so they will not have too much to carry. I believe Jesus is inviting the disciples to enjoy the journey. He invites them not to overthink, or over prepare for what they might need. Instead, he invites them to rely upon others and the providence of God for their daily needs.

Jesus also invites the disciples to let go of trying to control what should happen so that they will not be discouraged if things do not go the way they had envisioned. Jesus invites the disciples to be fully present, to trust that God will provide, to understand that they are not in control, but God is, and to pay attention to the incredible ways the spirit of God will move through them and the people they encounter.

As I do my final packing, I am reminded of Jesus' invitation. Thus, I will be packing more lightly than I had anticipated. I will be in prayer asking God to enable me to let go of my preconceived notions and expectations so that I may be fully present to the incredible ways the spirit of God will be moving through the people I meet and the experience I will have.

It is an honor to represent Illinois South Conference on this trip. I covet your prayers. When I return I look forward to sharing what I learned about the work and ministry of our missionary partners in Cuba. I also look forward to dreaming and

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
Oct 29 - Nov 4, 2017
Churches & Pastors

- Jerseyville Peace UCC

- Johannesburg St. John's

UCC, Rev. William Groennert

planning with you about the ways we in Illinois South Conference can support the work of the Caribbean Initiative of Global Ministries.
Blessings, Shana

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Robert and Nancy Tripp, Effingham, IL

Annual Meeting was a one-day event at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, Illinois on Oct 21. Those attending were 126 Lay Delegates representing 55 churches; 60 Clergy; and 55 Visitors.



The day began with a worship service with

Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs preaching. Each person brought up sea glass that appeared to be cloudy, broken and irregular to represent the brokenness in each of us. They placed it in a central vase and filled the vase with mineral oil which represented the love of God. This transformed the sea glass, creating a piece of beauty, just as God transforms us. ISC thanks the decoration team chairs, Dave Henerfauth and Walt

Hart for creating this representation of our brokenness to wholeness.



The day ended with an installation worship service and totenfest service for clergy who passed throughout the year. Here you see Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister, and Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan, Interim Minister at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville, preparing for communion as Dawn Reinhardt, organist at Salem UCC in Alhambra calls the members with music.



We thank them and all participants for their service throughout the day.



of proposed members.

Approved: The resolution presented by the ISC Justice & Witness Team to encourage the use of renewable energy was passed by the delegation. Read it [here](#).

Annual Meeting Offering Report

Offering taken during morning worship will be shared by the New Athens Home for the Aged in New Athens, Illinois, and Hitz Memorial Home in Alhambra, Illinois. Total received was \$5,086.96 giving each home \$2,543.48. Noisy offering taken after the Ecuador Partnership presentation will be given to them to continue its ministry. A total of \$4,798.95 was received along with a multitude of Blessing in Blocks messages to be placed in the concrete blocks when homes are built in Ecuador.

These four photos are courtesy of Lee-Alison Wilson. You will see more in the upcoming Weekly Connection from our official photographer, Rev. Ivan Horn. We thank both of them for their efforts to capture the day in photos.

People with Life Concerns

- Keep the family of Gene (Mary) Bergmann in your prayers as Gene deals with serious health issues from a fall. He is the brother of Shirley Bergmann, ISC Treasurer and Finance Coordinator.

- Pray for Nancy (Rev. Bob) Tripp as she deals with health issues. Rev. Tripp is a retired pastor and they are members of Pana United in Faith Church. Cards may be sent to 9008 E South Cir Dr, Effingham IL 62401.

Calling All Senior High Youth

Winter Weekend 2018 will take place on January 13-15, 2018 at DuBois Center. The theme is "Seeing Clearly: No Conflict Between Faith and Science" (it's a re-do of WW17 that was cancelled due to weather). We hope you will share this packet with your senior high youth and encourage them to attend this faith-filled and relationship-building event! If you would like the packet in hard-copy format, let us know at cpursell@iscucc.org or 618-654-2125. Click [here](#) for the full packet. [Here](#) if you need the DCFS fillable form.



United Church of Christ

THANKS TO CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR DONATION OF CWS HYGIENE KITS. At least 525 Church World Service Hygiene Kits and 23 Clean-Up Buckets were collected at the ISC Annual Meeting on October 21. Thanks also to the many congregations, Hunger Action Committee, and individuals for financial donations as well. These kits will be delivered to a Church World Service Drop Off site to be distributed to those in need following the recent hurricanes, earthquakes

and wild fires.

Volunteers are desperately needed to help with the recovery efforts. Make plans for your mission groups or individuals to join in these disaster responses. How about during the Christmas break, spring break and/or summertime? See information and links:

Houston, Texas, Hurricane Harvey Recovery

"Muck & Gut" volunteers are needed in Houston, Texas, and Denham Springs, La., to help homeowners begin to clean up after Hurricane Harvey. These two work sites are in partnership with the Fuller Center for Housing.

Click [here](#) for full information and to volunteer.

Hurricane Response to Date

- Detailed information about how the UCC is actively responding to Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Harvey on the U.S. mainland and in the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico. Click [here](#).
- For facts and figures about Irma and Maria's impact, click [here](#).
- For facts and figures about Harvey's impact including the "Love Them Back to Life" Video, click [here](#).
- To find out about the UCC's response in Puerto Rico, click [here](#).

Wildfires Response to Date

- For information about the California wildfires and how the UCC and its churches are affected - and responding, click [here](#)!

More Stories

- Click [here](#) for an index to UCC News and UCC Disaster Ministries stories about UCC congregations affected by, helping following hurricanes.



Mental Health First Aid training offered through Hoyleton.

Mental Health First Aid USA is a training designed to give people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The course uses techniques to demonstrate how to recognize and respond to the warning signs of specific illnesses.

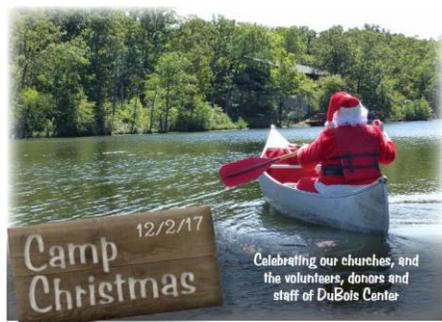
Who should participate: Community members, school personnel, social workers, students and first responders

Date: November 11, 2017 **Time:** 8am-5pm **Location:** 2200 Camp Jackson Road, Cahokia, IL 62206

RSVP by November 9 to Allison at 618-688-4776 or ahoshide@hoyleton.org. There is no cost for the training.



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



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, Dec. 2 - Save the Date

The annual DuBois Center Christmas Party is our opportunity to say **THANK YOU!** Thank you for your prayers and support; your gifts of time, talent and treasure; and your partnership in our shared mission and ministry at DuBois Center. Together we have touched countless lives over the past five decades with gifts of God's abundant love. Volunteers, staff, supporters and friends make it all happen. If you fit into any of these categories - then YOU are invited. Churches are encouraged to send representatives. Enjoy a yummy dinner, unique entertainment and, of course, THE Christmas game. The social hour begins at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Please RSVP to the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202 by **Friday, Nov. 24.**



**Mother-Daughter Retreat:
A Weekend to Remember!**

So what happens when you put a bunch of moms, daughters, grandmas, aunts and nieces between the ages of 3 and 85 (almost 86) together for a weekend? They laugh, sing, ride, canoe, serve, craft, stretch, worship, cuddle, eat and have a grand 'ole time! The 2017 Mother-Daughter Retreat is now history, but the memories are most certainly not. Angie Hausmann and Pastor Nancy Shubert were our spiritual leaders for the event. Their focus was relationships, and the weekend was filled with the telling of stories, the writing of prayers and letters to each other, and opportunities to work creatively together. Here are just some of the highlights noted on the end-of-event evaluations:

- Getting back to nature and away from cell phones, computers and TV
- Getting back to God
- Writing prayers together
- Waking up in the cottage together and cuddling in the morning

Start planning NOW for 2018. DuBois Center sponsors three great family retreats: Father-Son in April, Rainbow Camp in August and Mother-Daughter in October.



**WRANGLE & RIDE
Saturday,
November 11**

There's still time to corral your friends for a horse-intensive day at DuBois Center! Wrangle & Ride is

for pony enthusiasts age 12 and older. Yes, youth and adults are welcome! Groom, tack, ride and enjoy other horse-themed activities from 9 am - 5 pm. The cost is \$60 per person and lunch is included. To ensure more time in the saddle, space is limited to the first 12 registered. You can register [online](#), use this [flyer](#), or contact dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Deadline is October 28.



**SERVICE SATURDAY
November 4**

Stretch your muscles! Breathe fresh fall air! Hang out with friends and lend a helping hand! Youth and adult fellowship groups, families, individuals - everyone is invited to our annual fall

work day. Projects vary, depending on the skills of those involved and the weather. Stacking wood, raking leaves and painting are on the list, as are a variety of skilled labor projects. The work may not be glamorous, but it really does make a BIG DIFFERENCE! Click [here](#) for a flyer to post and share and [here](#) for a typical Work Day schedule. Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend; we want to be sure to have a hot lunch ready for you! Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



Words of Gratitude for the Fall Festival on October 1

While the Fall Festival was held 3 weeks ago, the Outdoor Ministries Team and DuBois Center Staff continue to be grateful for ALL people involved who made the fund-raiser a success, including Donors, Bidders, Buyers, and the Volunteers!!

Quilts' Corner-Three beautiful quilts were on display.

Volunteers who supervised this popular aspect of Fall Festival.

- Shirley Richards (Zion UCC - Addieville)
- Linda and Robert Schmidt (St. John UCC - Maeystown)
- Verna Steinkamp (St. Peter UCC - Centralia)
- Linda Schneider (St. John UCC - New Athens)

Thanks also to ALL the raffle ticket buyers.

Silent Auction- Banquet tables were used to display 32 different entries. There were some unique ones, including a nearly new meat grinder (really heavy duty)!

Known donors/churches who made the Silent Auction a reality.

- 2 Anonymous Donors from Immanuel UCC - Carlyle
- Nan Borgmann, Verna Steinkamp, Jeanette Storck, & Norma Borgmann (St. Peter UCC - Centralia)
- Ruth Raitt (Christ UCC - Dupo)

Jeannie Stumpf (St. Paul UCC - Freeburg)
Virginia Ilch (Evangelical UCC - Godfrey)
Donaleen Berberich (St. Paul UCCC - Lebanon)
Melba Asselmeier (St. John UCC - Maestown)
Emma Lou Erwin (St. Paul UCC - Nashville)
St. Peter's UCC Jr. High Youth Group plus an Anonymous Donor (St. Peter's UCC - Okawville)
Dorothy Rodenberg (Zion UCC, St. Joe - Waterloo)
Natalie Shubert (St. Peter UCC - Stone Church)
Anonymous Donor from St. Paul UCC - Waterloo

Volunteers who supervised the Silent Auction

Dan and Cindy Highlander (Eden Church - Edwardsville)
Virginia Ilch (Evangelical UCC - Godfrey)

Upscale Resale Shoppe-LOTS of donated items for the Upscale Resale Shoppe were displayed in Oak Lodge. There were over 75 new or gently used purses AND so many more other items in various categories of nice quality too.

Known contributors/churches who provided donations.

Anonymous Donors from Immanuel UCC - Carlyle
Jeanette Storck and Norma Borgmann (St. Peter UCC - Centralia)
Jeannie Stumpf (St. Paul UCC - Freeburg)
Jeanette Materkowski and Kent Schroeder (St. John UCC - Mascoutah)
Anonymous Donors (St. Peter's UCC - Okawville)
Dorothy Rodenberg (Zion UCC, St. Joe - Waterloo)
MANY anonymous donors from St. Paul UCC - Waterloo
Audrey Hicks & Family (St. Paul UCC - Waterloo) who donated personal items AND pickup and delivery

Volunteers who cashiered/bagged/boxed up remaining items in the Resale Shoppe.

Nan Borgmann, Connie Freels, and Jeanette Storck (St. Peter UCC - Centralia)
Donaleen Berberich, Arline Magee, and Erlene Pooler (St. Paul UCC - Lebanon)

Any items left on the tables after the Festival were donated to the "Savers" Store in Fairview Heights that assists Vietnam Veterans and the brand new Goodwill Industries Store in Centralia. Staff members from both locations were most appreciative of the valued donations.

I apologize if someone was omitted-please inform me for clarification on the records.

Norma Borgmann-Coordinator of the Oak Lodge "Non-Edible" Attractions

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



Deaconess Nurse Ministry congregational information packets were distributed at the Conference Annual Meeting on October 21. If your church did not receive a packet, please contact Marti Kelley at mkelly@faithnurses.org and a packet can be mailed to you. Each packet contains: A Welcome Letter, List of people who are able to provide a Worship Moment for Mission or speak to your church leadership, a list of tangible ways your church can help Deaconess Nurse Ministry, a contribution envelope and a list of Illinois South Conference ministries where Deaconess Nurse Ministry is partnering.



Halloween Bowling Bash CANCELLED - We regrettably must cancel the bowling event scheduled for Saturday, October 28th at Salem Bowl. Thank you for your consideration and we apologize for the inconvenience. As always, if you have questions, please contact our office at 618-688-4770.

MERCHANDISE PICKUP SERVICES CAN HELP

Merchandise Pickup Services is teaming up with **Hoyleton Youth and Family Services** in an effort to raise money for its residential and community based services. This program is simple, affordable and there is absolutely NO RISK to you or your business. To get started...

- 1) Simply agree to place a box on your property (boxes take up less than one parking space) and MPS will contact you to make all of the necessary arrangements.
- 2) Once placed, Hoyleton will begin advertising the location on Facebook and via email to our clients and donors. People will begin to place their clothing donations into the boxes.
- 3) MPS will collect the donations weekly, take them to their warehouse, weigh out the bags, and will then send a check directly to HYFS.



Yes, it's really that simple! You provide HYFS with one parking space and they can continue providing care to area children living with developmental and intellectual disabilities, suffering from abuse and neglect, living in foster care and those aging out of the system. Your single parking spot offers hope and light to a child who needs their help. Together we can make a difference in the lives of many! If you have any questions, contact Kitty Wusstig at 618-688-4757. If you would like to learn more about Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, click [here](#) or Merchandise Pickup [Services](#).



November 3-4, 2017
Certificate Course - History and Polity of the UCC
presented by Dr. Jill Baker



This course will explore the history and polity (structure and governance) of the United Church of Christ, seeking to provide an understanding of the organization, ministries and mission commitments of the UCC in the past, and looking to the future on how the denomination's theological trajectories may continue to



develop.

Recommended Reading *"That they all may be One" That We May All (Finally!) be One*, by Mary Susan Gast, Pilgrim Press, 2016

Dr. Baker is an ONA Consultant for the Illinois South Conference UCC, and a trainer in the Building an Inclusive Church curriculum.

Elective Course



The Impact of Judaism on Christianity
Rabbi Howard Kaplansky

The origins of Christian faith are deeply grounded in Jewish tradition, texts, and practices. In this course Rabbi Howard Kaplansky addresses Jewish-Christian relationships, paying attention to such matters as interpretation of the Hebrew scriptures, the diversity of Judaism, Jewish rituals and customs, the State of Israel, the Middle East and Holocaust studies. (Sponsored by the Jewish Chautauqua Society).

Recommended Readings Bring a *Bible!*

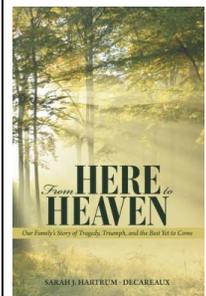
Rabbi Howard Kaplansky became Rabbi Emeritus of United Hebrew on July 1, 2011, after serving the congregation for over 30 years, including Senior Rabbi from 1990-2011. He received his B.A. degree from Ohio State University, and was ordained Rabbi at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion where he received his M.A.H.L. and D.D. degrees.

Visit [here](#) for more information and to register. Or contact Jill Schantz at jschantz@eden.edu or by calling 314-918--2554. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



St. John's will offer Savvy Caregiver Training sessions several times through 2018 using a curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota. This training provides tools to family members who are caring for an individual with dementia/memory loss who is living at home, either alone or with family. Each session will be comprised of six two-hour sessions. The first series will begin Wednesday, October 25 at 10 am at St. John Evangelical UCC, 307 West Clay Street, Collinsville. Each series is limited to a maximum of 12 families. There is no cost to those attending. For more information or to register, call 618-344-5008. Click [here](#) for a poster.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...



MILLSTADT AUTHOR, SARAH DECARAUX SPEAKS AT FRIEDENS UCC, Hecker on October 29 at 2 pm. *Our Family's Story of Tragedy, Triumph, and the Best Yet to Come* was how God inspired Sarah Decareaux to write her book, *From Here to Heaven*. On a cold January morning in 2013, Sarah Hartrum-Decareaux's husband, Dave, and two of their sons, Dominic, ten, and Grant, eight, went to heaven in a hiking accident. As the second anniversary approached, she asked God to prepare her spirit for the days ahead. The Holy Spirit led her to start typing, and the legacy of her loved ones was birthed.

From Here to Heaven is the story of the Decareaux family, from their golden days as a homeschooling military family traveling across Europe, to tragedy, to crawling, walking, and being carried back to life toward triumph. This is a story of unspeakable loss and of hope, of pain and of healing, of godly defiance, and of daring to learn to live again in the face of seemingly unbearable grief. This is the story of abundant life

and the best yet to come. Sarah will share not only her story and inspiration but also the many ways God and the Holy Spirit led her to write the book and to share her story with many groups.

Friedens UCC invites everyone to come, see, hear Sarah and engage in conversations and questions during her presentation in the Fellowship Hall located behind the sanctuary. Friedens UCC is located in Hecker two blocks east of Route 159, at 240 East Monroe Street. There is ample parking in the lot behind church. Refreshments will be served.

Region 2

Friedens UCC in Hecker will hold its All You Can Eat Soups & Chili Dinner on Sat, Nov 4 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Dine in only.

On October 14, Trinity UCC in Belleville welcomed many guests from the community, as well as congregation members to support the Belleville Community Interfaith Food Pantry. The 6th annual Halloween Trivia Spooktacular collected a large number of food items, and allowed them to donate \$1211 to the food pantry. Please consider joining them for the fun next October.

Region 4

Brighton St. John UCC will present their annual Trunk or Treat festival on Fri, Oct 27 from 5-8 pm in the church parking lot. Sweet treats, roasted hot dogs and festive drinks. We are open till our treats are all gone.

Brighton St. John UCC will hold its Totenfest Sunday service on All Saints Sunday, Nov 5 at 10:15 am. Members of the community are invited to attend and bring a picture of their loved one to share. Special recognition will be given to people who have died in the past year, and all who have died will be remembered.

Region 5

Marine UCC will hold its Pork Sausage Dinner on Sun, Nov 5 from 11 am - 5:30 pm. Menu includes homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, sauerkraut, green beans, corn, and homemade pie. Adults \$10; Children 4-10 years \$4; Children 3 and under Free. All carry-outs \$10. Farmers' Market. Raffle of quilts, side of beef, whole hog, gift cards, and more.

Grantfork UCC will host its 48th Annual Sausage Supper on Sat, Nov 11, from 3 pm - 8 pm. The meal features fresh, homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and milk gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, bread, and homemade pie. Adults \$10; Children (ages 6-12) \$5; Children under 6 free. All carry-outs are \$10. Packaged sausage and fried sausage for sale. Country Corner, featuring homemade goodies.

Region 6

Pana United in Faith will celebrate its 10th Anniversary on Sunday, October 29. After its regular worship service at 10:15 pm, there will be a pot-luck meal. At 1 pm, they will have their anniversary program followed by a reception. All church congregations in Illinois South Conference are invited to join in the celebration.

Region 8

Lenzburg St Peter UCC will hold its Pancake Breakfast and Sunday School Craft and Bake Sale on Nov 11 from 6 am to noon. Made with whole hog sausage and "made from scratch" pancakes. Handicapped accessible. Contact 618-475-2557.

The 7th Annual New Baden Festival of Trees will be from Nov 16 - 19 at the Community Life Center at St. George Church, 317 E Maple St, New Baden. More information from Leanne at nbfestivaloftrees@gmail.com or call 618-224-7825.

Region 9

Belleville Trinity UCC will hold a Stewardship Rummage Sale on its parking lot on Sat, Oct 28 from 8 am - 1 pm. Items can be brought to the church and placed in the "Library." No clothes at this time. If you do not have items to give, please come to find some treasures for your home.

The St. Paul UCC in Waterloo introduces its St. Paul Fine Arts Concert. The Sun Dec 17 - 2 pm - St. Paul Orchestra Christmas Concert prepares you for the holidays.