

Weekly Connection

For the Week of November 12, 2017 - November 18, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

A Pastoral Response
to the shooting at First Baptist, Sutherland Springs, Texas
Telephone conference for all ISC pastors
This Thursday, November 9 at 2 pm to 2:45 pm

All Illinois South Conference pastors are invited to join a telephone conference with Rev. Shana Johnson, our Conference Minister, to discuss practical safety measures congregations can practice, training resources available for congregations, as well as how pastors might help their congregations grapple with what it means that our sanctuaries might not be the safe spaces we all desire them to be.

To participate in the conference call, call (712) 832-8320. Then, when prompted to do so, enter the access code: 794921. As soon as you enter the conference call, please introduce yourself so that others know you have joined the call.

Also please email Rev. Johnson at sjohnson@iscucc.org by 10 am on Thursday to indicate that you are planning to join the conference call at 2 pm, so that she will know the participants that are planning to participate and can follow up after the call with more information.

Sometimes there are no words.

I first learned this at the age of 16 when I saw my Grandma Johnson (my dad's step mother) sitting in the first row of chairs in the funeral home chapel staring at my grandfather's casket. During the first hour of the visitation, waves of people greeted her, but none of their words seemed to offer her any comfort. I did not know what to say, so I decided instead to simply sit next to her, hold her hand and cry with her. I had no words.



When I was eight months pregnant with our second daughter, Megan, I was doing a CPE unit at Deaconess Hospital. One night when I had the beeper, I was called in to comfort a couple that had just lost their baby. I had no words.

When I was doing a chaplaincy at a jail and an inmate that, most everyone from the guards and social workers to the lawyers on both sides of the case believed he was innocent, was sentenced to life in prison. I had no words.

When I was a crisis counselor for the local high school and I was called to be present with a group of students who saw their friend commit suicide in front of them. I had no words.

When a church member called me and asked me to meet them at their parent's home because they had been notified that there had been a terrible accident; and when we arrived, it was discovered that the father had killed their mother and then the father killed himself. I had no words.

Sometimes there are no words. No words that can offer comfort, explanation or ease the pain. And sometimes words only get in the way of offering what is truly needed in a moment of tragedy, devastation and heartbreak. What is truly needed is the gift of being present with someone else to remind them that they are not alone.

Yesterday morning a fellow Conference Minister called me and asked, "What will you be doing to respond to the church shooting in Texas?" My immediate response was, "Nothing, I can't respond." I went on to explain that I was struggling to write something of comfort or some grand, profound statement. I did not know what to say in light of this most recent act of violence. I had no words.

Perhaps you like me have struggled with trying to make sense of yet another senseless tragedy.

I want to share with you something that came to me after a time of prayer and reflection. As I was praying, I had a sudden flash of the origami peace doves that

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
Nov 12 - Nov 18, 2017
Churches & Pastors

- Maeystown St. John UCC, Rev. Patrick Poole
- Marine UCC, Rev. Phil (Santee) Kershner

were made for last year's Annual Meeting. Then I had an AHA moment. Doves have long been a symbol of peace. Early Christians used the image of the dove on an olive branch during funeral processions to symbolize peace. Many centuries later, it became a tradition to send origami peace doves to those who were mourning.

As I thought about the paper peace doves, I began to imagine showering the church in Texas with peace doves, cards, and messages of love and support as a way to remind that faith community that they are not alone.

I would like to invite you to make this possible.

I would like to encourage all of our churches to make some peace doves and/or purchase and make cards of sympathy for the church members of First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

Click [here](#) for the written pattern, or watch the instructional video below that Lynnette, our Illinois South Conference Communications Director, created for a class she taught through the Highland Arts Council.



The cards and doves can be dropped off at the Illinois South Conference office in Highland by the end of the month and we will deliver them in mass the first week of December to the First Baptist church on behalf of our Conference as a way to show our Christian solidarity and support.

Sometimes there are no words that are sufficient, but we need to remind those who are suffering that we are present with them in their time of mourning and grief.

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana

My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

November 12

Worship at Trinity UCC in Belleville

November 19

Worship at Evangelical UCC in Highland

December 3

Worship at St. Paul UCC in Staunton

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.

Blessings, Shana **This is your OCWM monies at work.**



Veterans Day - Saturday, November 11

Thanks to all military who strive to keep us safe and our rights protected. Here is a [link](#) to several videos on History.com. Bet you will learn something new. According to History.com...

- Veterans Day began as Armistice Day for the end of World War I. End of WW I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.
- Originally, business was suspended for 2 minutes of silence at 11 am on November 11 to honor the military who served in World War I.

Retired Pastor

- Rev. John and Shirley Trnka, Newburgh, IN

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.

- Please pray for the family of Walter "Gig" Giffhorn (91) of Columbia who died on Nov 5. Gig was very active at Columbia St. Paul UCC, served on the Board of Directors at Uni-Pres Kindercottage, and was instrumental in a Habitat for Humanity "Blitz Build" in the 1990s. Every month "Mr. Gig" took food and supplies from Columbia St. Paul UCC to Kindercottage, making his final delivery in October. He also taught the Confirmation Sunday School class in Columbia for **65**

years! Visitation is Thurs, Nov 9 from 4-8 pm at Lawlor Funeral Home in Columbia. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul UCC in Columbia on Fri, Nov 10 at 11am. Memorial gifts may be directed to Uni-Pres Kindercottage or St. Paul UCC in Columbia. Cards may be sent to his wife, Carol Giffhorn, 510 Gilmore Lake Road, Columbia, IL, 62236.

- The name was changed by Dwight D. Eisenhower, US President in 1954, to Veterans Day and added honoring all military who have served or were currently serving.
- The date was changed to the fourth Monday of October in 1971, but President Gerald Ford changed it back to November 11 in 1975. Celebrate military current and past. Click the [link](#) to learn more.

DuBois Center News

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



"THANK YOU" CHRISTMAS PARTY - Sat, Dec 2 - Save the Date

This annual event 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 sacred space and God's abundant love. Volunteers, staff, supporters and friends are invited to enjoy a tasty dinner, unique entertainment and, of course, THE Christmas game. Social hour begins at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Churches are encouraged to send representatives. Please RSVP to DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@duboiscenter.org by **Fri, Nov 24**. Click [here](#) for your invitation.



GIVING THANKS!

Reasons to give thanks are plentiful at DuBois Center. God's creation is majestic - the plants, the critters, the people. Enjoy these gifts from photographer Marty Kemper, one of our earth care

volunteers. Delight in the dragonfly, the cardinal flower, purple sneezeweed (not purple at all), the wild hyssop - and in the words of Don Moen, "Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One."

CAMP NURSES-Servants with Sunscreen

Despite the falling leaves, it's never too early to think about summer. One setting for ministry at DuBois Center is our health center. Volunteer camp nurses, most of whom are RNs, are a vital piece of our summer camp program. Many find serving at DuBois Center to be a rewarding mission opportunity, one that is quite different from their regular job. Responsibilities include reviewing camper medical forms, conducting health screenings, receiving & administering medications, providing first aid & basic medical treatment, and documentation. But when you really get down to it, nurses spend most of their time removing ticks, soothing rashes, distributing medications and providing extra TLC for homesick and nervous campers. If you are an RN, please consider serving with us for a full or partial week. The living quarters do have AC and there is often time to join us for worship, explore the woods or just sit back and read a book. Contact Shirley at 618-787-2202 or email.



BUNCO NIGHT

Saturday February 24

SAVE THE DATE - All are invited to join Region 2 for an evening of fun and fellowship. Gather the family, some friends, your youth group; come in out of the cold and get energized! This fun, somewhat frenzied dice game is so easy to

learn, anyone can play! St. Paul UCC in Columbia will open its doors at 6:30 pm on Saturday, February 24; the game will begin at 7 pm. The cost to play is \$10 per person, but WAIT - there's more. Also featured is a 50/50 drawing and a silent auction with a variety of fun items. Snacks and soda will be available for purchase. Funds raised go to support ministry at DuBois Center. Check out this [flyer](#) and share it with... everyone! Advance tickets are available; details are included on the flyer.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Looking for a unique gift for someone special in your life? Hate crowded malls and overwhelming online sites? **Gift Certificates** for DuBois Center camps, events and items in the camp store might be just the answer to your shopping conundrum. Consider giving your child or grandchild the gift of a week at camp or your son and grandson a weekend together just for Fathers & Sons. Love your old camp t-shirts and sweatshirts? Share that love with all the grandkids, nieces and nephews. Certificates are available for any amount of \$10 or more. For more information contact DuBois Center 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



Eden Theological Seminary presents its Walker Leadership Institute Tools for Leadership: The Five Most Important Questions on Thurs, Nov 16 from 9 am - 12 pm at Eden Theological Seminary in Press Hall, Room 101. What are the five most important questions you will ever ask about your organization? We will learn about Peter Drucker's tool for an accelerated strategic assessment, utilizing the five questions to help lead your organization or church to greater clarity and effectiveness. This model is useful for running a meeting, a board retreat, a yearly or long-range strategic plan. All church leaders are

welcome - both clergy and laity. Registration is \$30. Register [here](#).

St. John's support groups provide opportunities for families and friends caring for an aging loved one to discuss their concerns and uncertainties, as well as find resources to help regain a sense of balance and hope. We also provide information about helpful coping techniques and resources to make your job as caregiver a little less stressful. The sessions allow you to listen and discuss common issues with the group, leaving you with more understanding and a sense that you are not alone. There is no charge to attend.



Family Caregiver Support Group- Collinsville, Wed, Nov 8, 5:30 - 7 pm. This support group is intended for family caregivers caring for loved ones with any type of disability. Join us at St. John's Community Care in Collinsville for a light complimentary dinner. Sessions are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Complimentary care for loved ones available with a reservation. Call 618-344-5008.

Alzheimer's Support Group- Collinsville, Tues, Nov 14, 1:30 pm - 3 pm. Join others dealing with dementia and memory loss at St. John's Community Care in Collinsville. Sessions are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Complimentary care for loved ones available with reservation. Call 618-344-5008.

Family Caregiver Support Group - Edwardsville, Wed, Nov 15, from 6:30 pm - 8 pm. This support group is intended for family caregivers caring for loved ones with any type of disability. Join us at St. John's Community Care Adult Day Program in Edwardsville. Sessions are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month. For more information call 618-656-7090.



Is your church located in Madison County? Are you preparing for a pie social or group gathering? Does your church have a coffee hour or fundraising dinner?

If so, please consider using St. John's Community Care napkins.

It's one less item your group has to purchase and it will help us to promote our services to those attending the events. The napkins are free. Let us know a few weeks in advance of your event so we can try to accommodate your needs. Napkins are large dinner size. Requests can be for up to 500 napkins. We are happy to deliver the napkins to you or your church. Call Missy at 344-5008 or email your request mathmer@stjohnscc.org.



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:** 8 am - 5 pm **Location:** 2200 Camp Jackson Road, Cahokia, IL

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

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Many churches have mission fairs to highlight their church ministries as well as community and global ministries. If you are having a fair and would like to have a table of resources from the UCC/DOC's Global Ministries, we have a display board, booklets, flyers, DVDs, pins, and pens that you can use/distribute. Contact the ISC office at 618-654-2125 to make arrangements for getting the items to you.



Job Opportunity: St. John UCC in Granite City is searching for a part-time cemetery manager. Time requirement is a minimum of 20 hours per week with an occasional Saturday. Duties include supervise grounds keeper; maintain payroll and tax records; grave sales and interment procedures; work with excavation and ground care companies and communicate with funeral director on time and action; work with funeral home prior to interment to acquire needed documents; keep all grave location ledgers and files accurate on a weekly basis; work with the grounds keeper to locate all of the paper files, computer files and ledger tools to find all of the grave sites; write and issue checks and mail all payroll/expense bills with approval of the Cemetery Committee; monitor usage of sick days, vacation usage and personnel holidays for all cemetery employees; forward payroll to accountant via fax or e-mail every two week pay period for processing; put together a monthly list of current bills, burials, the accountants monthly statement and Edward Jones statements for the Cemetery Committee; attend the Cemetery Committee Meeting. Salary will be \$14/hour. To apply send your resume with cover letter to the following address: St. John United Church of Christ, 2901 Nameoki Road, Granite City, Illinois 62040. ATTN: Personnel Committee or e-mail to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com. No phone calls please.

Region 2 **Region 4** **Region 7**

3 Trips/Tours for Confirmation Classes Scheduled. This year's area Confirmation Class trips for youth and adults are being organized by Region 2 Pastors. The three confirmed trips at this time are:

- Sun, Nov 12 at 1:45-3:45 pm - Holocaust Museum & Learning Center, 12 Millstone Campus Dr., St. Louis, MO
 - Sat, Dec 2 at 11:30 am - Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 1755 Des Peres Road, Town & Country, MO
 - Sat, Jan 13 at 10 am - St Louis Basilica Cathedral, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO
- Contact Rev. Ivan Horn at ivhorn@htc.net if interested.

St. Paul UCC, Columbia, will hold their 7th Annual Plowsharing Fair Trade Crafts Sale Sat and Sun, Dec 16 and 17, 8 am - 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will many one of-a-kind pieces, such as jewelry, clothing, art, home decorations, baskets, musical instruments, games for kids, etc. Finely crafted, handmade products provide work and vital income to families in need of adequate food, housing, education and medical care.

Carlinville St. Paul UCC will hold its bi-annual Talent Show and Silent Auction, "St. Paul Days Are Here Again," on Sat, Nov 11 beginning at 7 pm. Doors open at 6 pm. Adults \$8; Children 3 - 11 years \$4. Day care provided for children under 3.

Region 5

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.

Evangelical UCC in Highland will host their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet on Sun, Nov 19 from 4 pm - 7 pm in their Social Hall (2520 Poplar, Highland IL). Turkey, dressing and all the fixin's, PLUS homemade pie. This dinner is open to all and is FREE! Please call the church office at 618-654-7459 by Nov 15 to let us know how many people will be joining you.

Addieville Zion UCC will hold its 68th Annual Wurst Markt on Wed, Nov 8 beginning at 4 pm at the Addieville Community Club. All-you-can-eat buffet-style menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, peas, applesauce, desserts, and coffee. Adults \$10; Children \$5; All carryouts \$10. For advanced sausage sales, call 618-410-8861 or 618-424-7816.

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.