

Weekly Connection

For the Week of November 19, 2017 - November 25, 2017
 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Get Your Doves Here

Edna Dell Weinel from Columbia St. Paul UCC decided she would rather make a donation toward ISC's Friends of the Conference fund rather than learn to make the dove. We agreed to have it made for her. If anyone else would like to purchase a dove, email lschuepbach@iscucc.org and we will get one made for you. We will put your wishes and name on the dove. Make checks payable to Illinois South Conference. In the memo, put "Friends - Dove" and mail to 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249. The package will be shipped to Texas the first week of December.

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 19 - 25 **Churches & Pastors**

- Marion Zion UCC, Rev. John (Sara) Holst
- Marissa Friedens, Pastor Brett (Carolyn) Palmer, Student Pastor

Will You Be Able to Live with Yourself?

The conversation was not about debating whether people should have the right to own guns or protect themselves; it was about something much deeper. He was talking about being upset with his daughter's desire to buy a gun for protection. His daughter lives alone and her home was recently broken into. She felt violated and vulnerable. She told her father she was going to buy a gun and keep it in the nightstand by her bed.

He imagined she was surprised he did not fully support her plan. He said she looked a bit shocked when he emphatically told her, *"Buying a gun and learning how to use it and store it safely is the easy part. What is not easy is the reality that if you pull a gun on someone you must be ready to use it. What is not easy, and you must think long and hard about is, -- Will you be able to live with yourself if you kill someone?"* Then quietly, almost in a whisper, he said to me, *"I know that from being in Vietnam and it has only gotten worse."*

We sat in silence for a while; then I took a risk. *"May I ask what you mean by that?"* He thought for a moment. Soon, his tough exterior faded, and he shared with me the deep shame and guilt he struggled with every day. He told of the recurring nightmares he endured. He confessed that although family, friends, and even his pastor agreed that these were justified actions in a time of war, he felt his actions were unforgiveable. He also shared he dreaded Veterans Day celebrations.

It was a conversation I have had countless times with veterans that served in active war zones, but still I was not expecting it. It was a holy moment. It was a powerful reminder to me of how carefully we must walk as pastors and leaders when seeking to provide hope and healing. On Veterans Day, many of our churches celebrated all the brave men and women who served to fight for the freedoms we enjoy, and we often take for granted. I believe there is deep value in acknowledging our gratefulness for their service. Yet, I also believe we must acknowledge and make space for the realities of suffering and pain (physical, emotional and mental) our veterans face.

As we continue to remember our veterans, may we also remember that they need our support in naming and making peace with the lasting effects of war. Let us lift up those who served our nation, protecting and defending our freedom. Let us remember and pray for those whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war, whose nights are haunted by memories often too painful for the light of day.



SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana

My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

November 19

Worship at Evangelical UCC in Highland

December 3

Worship at St. Paul UCC in Staunton

December 10

Worship at St. Mark's UCC, DuBois

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.



The first Winter Weekend deadline is quickly approaching. The Space Request is due December 8. DuBois can accommodate 100 people, so the space request allows us the opportunity to make sure we can fill the space without overfilling it! So, please complete the form (attached) and return it with your deposit by Dec 8. As your youth group starts planning for Winter Weekend, please keep in mind that we are asking the youth to help with two offerings.

1. Sunday morning, we will collect a cash (or check) offering to support Uni-Pres Kindercottage. We suggest the youth of your church connect with the entire congregation as a mission.
2. We also ask the youth to collect and bring facial tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, wet wipes, and or Clorox wipes for Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Let's see how large of a stack we can create.

UCC RESOURCES

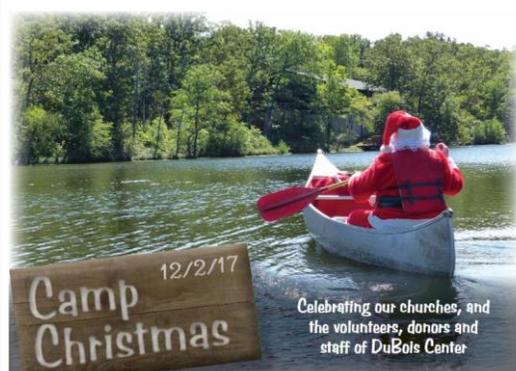
ONA and the Bible Webinar - Tuesday, November 14, 2017

7 pm - 8:30 pm Eastern Time

Out of 31,000 verses in the Bible, just eight are a stumbling block for churches that want to welcome and support their LGBTQ members and neighbors. But what else does the Bible say about our relationships with each other and with God? Click [here](#) for more information.

DuBois Center News

The Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ



"THANK YOU" CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, Dec. 2 - RSVP Today

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.

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Robert and Doris Utke, Falcon Heights, MN

People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for the family of Bill Schafer as they mourn his death on Friday. Bill, a member of St. John UCC in Brighton, is the father of Pastor Ken (Barbara) Schafer, Pastor of Carlyle Immanuel UCC, and the uncle of Wayne (Rev. Lori) Schafer. Rev. Lori Schafer is the Pastor at St. John's UCC Midway.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 pm Wednesday at the Crawford Funeral Home in Jerseyville. Visitation will continue on Thursday from 9 am, until time of funeral services at 10 am at the St. John's United Church of Christ in Brighton. Rev. Laurie Crelly will officiate. Burial will be in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Jerseyville, with military rites conducted by the Jerseyville American Legion Post 942. Memorials may be given to the Jersey County Farm Bureau Foundation or to the St. John's United Church of Christ in Brighton. Cards may be sent to Pastor Ken & Barbara Schafer at 18484 Stagecoach Road, Jerseyville, IL 62052. Read the entire obituary [here](#).

- Pray for Cheryl (Matt) Gusewelle as she recovers from surgery. Cheryl is the daughter-in-law of Joyce & Richard Gusewelle. They are members of St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville and Joyce is a member of the ISC Conference Gatherings Team.

- 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.

SUMMER JOBS - Make a Difference this Summer!

Summer is just around the corner and staff recruitment kicks off this month. Energetic, child-focused, fun-loving - sound like you or someone you know? Check out the Summer of Service [flyer](#) and consider whether an amazing summer at DuBois Center might be just the opportunity you have been looking for. Gain practical experience and build your resume. Positions include cabin counselors/activity leaders, barn assistant/counselors and coordinators. FAITH. FUN. HARD WORK. GREAT FRIENDS. LONG HOURS. AMAZING MEMORIES. Questions? Contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org.



Here's a Thought!

Here's a Thought:

Know someone who might make a great camp leader? Please forward this article to them or use this [form](#) to recommend them.

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!



BROWNIES on a BENCH

A new snack treat? No! Just some girls hanging out, having fun and riding horses at DuBois Center. Throughout the year dozens of scout troops take to the trails. Beginning again next March, your youth, adult or family group can too. Weekend horseback rides can be scheduled for groups of 6 or more; mid-week rides on school holidays can also be scheduled. One hour sessions, which include an orientation in the arena, cost \$22 per person for day groups. A minimum of three weeks advance notice is required. For more information contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Thanks, Girl Scout Troop #8843, for a great ride and those winning smiles!

**JUST KEEP SWIMMING
You, too, can be a LIFEGUARD!**

Moderate to strong swimmer? Each summer we hire 7-8 young adults with Lifeguard certification to serve on our summer staff. If you are interested, NOW is the time to start swimming. Stay in shape this winter while preparing for a great summer job. Check out courses at your local college or university, rec center, YMCA or JCC. *Hint:* If your school offers a course - take it. Those classes are generally less expensive than community classes.



Lifeguard certification classes also include First Aid and CPR certification, both of which are prerequisites for summer staff. Questions about lifeguard certification? Contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org. Happy swimming!



CHHSM News

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

MAKE CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUE! We still have youth who are waiting to have their wish lists adopted. We are also collecting items for Christmas stockings. Our goal is to ensure every child leaves the foster care and Puentes parties with a filled stocking. If you can fulfill a wish list, donate stocking stuffers or make a financial contribution, please contact our office. We appreciate your generous support of our mission! Stocking stuffers: Travel/Card games; Coloring Book; Fruit snacks; Silly Putty; Slinky; Yo-Yo; Candy Canes; Christmas socks or gloves; popcorn; chocolate Santa.



The Hitz Home Auxiliary presents Christmas Tasting Bee on Fri, Dec 1 at 1 pm in the Hitz Activity and Dining Room. It's an afternoon of fellowship at their winter wonderland celebration. Bring your favorite Christmas appetizer, dish or dessert to share a delicious meal, Christmas goodies, and entertainment by the Joy Singers. There will be a bake & craft sale by the Hitz Home residents. Donation \$6.

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 - 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.



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](#).

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

Two Trips / Tours for Confirmation Classes Scheduled. This year's area Confirmation Class trips for youth and adults are organized by Region 2 Pastors. The two remaining trips are:

- 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.

Region 4

Brighton St. John's UCC will host their famous Fish on Friday, Nov 17 from 11 am - 6 pm. Dine in or carry out all day. They deliver to Brighton area businesses and school during the lunch hour. Call 618-372-3737 at least one hour before delivery is needed. Menu includes both White Fish and Buffalo fish, green beans, baked beans, mac and cheese, coleslaw and potato salad, hot dogs and brats along with a wide selection of home made pies and sweet desserts.

Region 5

EvUCC 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.

Region 6

A CHRISTKINDLMARKT will be held at St. Peter UCC in Centralia on Saturday, December 9, between 10 am and 2 pm. Vendors wares, crafts made by members, lots of cookies and other baked goods plus St. Peter special recipe sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, and pie and cake by the slice will be available for sale. Bulk sausage can also be purchased.

Region 8

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.