

Weekly Connection

For the Week of April 30, 2017 - May 6, 2017
 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of ISC....

St. Clair County in Illinois is ranked 95 out of 102 counties for poor population health factors in the state. In fact, 33% of adults are obese and 24% adults live inactive lifestyles (University of Wisconsin Health Institute 2017 Report). With this data in mind, June Benedick RN, DNM Faith Community Nurse, wanted to do her part to help promote active and healthy living, so she started at the places she serves regularly, St.

Mark's Lutheran Church in Belleville and St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Lebanon.

Her idea - a walking program during the Lent Season. This had never been pursued at either church, so June wasn't sure what the response would be. However, she quickly found that congregants were excited about the idea, and between the two churches, 40 people signed up to participate. Each participant was encouraged to have a "walking friend" and track their progress. Men and women of all ages participated in the lifestyle challenge.

The results are coming in over the next few weeks, but many participants have already asked June to organize the next challenge.



Region 8 Easter Vigil

For many years now, Region 8 churches have gathered on the Saturday before Easter for an Easter Vigil service. The Easter Vigil, also called the Paschal Vigil, is a service held in traditional Christian churches as the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. This beautiful worship service begins in the darkness as the people of God meditate on all



that God has done from the beginning of time through Jesus Christ's life and death and moves toward the light and celebration of the resurrection. This year's service was at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon.



OVERWHELMED. There's a heaviness to it. There's a pit in your stomach feeling to it. There's a "I don't want to get out of bed and face the day" nature to it. There's a creeping to the edge of "why does it matter what I do, it won't make any difference anyway" danger to it.

Christian author Craig Dykstra describes the feeling of being overwhelmed as

"By the sheer hugeness or complexity of something. We can't get our arms around it. We can't get it figured out. We are unable to organize it or to bring it under control. It makes us feel...small, weak and inadequate."

OVERWHELMED. We have all been there. Maybe you have been recently...this week, yesterday or even today. I believe that is exactly where the disciples were as the Gospel of John describes the scene in John 20:19 "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked..."

It was the week after... Jesus had been welcomed like a King, celebrated then betrayed, arrested, accused, tortured, put to death and then taken off the cross, body anointed, sealed in a tomb and then...seen by some of the disciples as ALIVE!!

Yes, the week after all that the disciples were together. Maybe they hadn't gone home, maybe they hadn't eaten, maybe they hadn't slept very well, maybe they hadn't bathed or changed their clothing. Maybe some of them hadn't stopped

Important Links

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[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

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[St. Paul's Home](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

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[ISC Directory](#)

Pray for...

Prayer list for
April 30 - May 6, 2017
Churches & Pastors

- Tower Hill St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dr. Steve (Debby) Nance
- Summerfield St. John UCC, Rev. Gary (Joyce) Kniepkamp

talking about what had just happened or maybe some of them hadn't talked at all. When Jesus went into the tomb, so did their hopes, their vision, and their sense of direction and purpose. What were they left with? I would imagine an **OVERWHELMING** sense of failure, loss, and shame. Some had deserted him. Some had betrayed him. Some were sure that they disappointed him. All were disillusioned.

They could not "get their arms" around what they had seen, heard and experienced. They could not "organize" or make sense of the kind of loss they had faced. They could not "bring under control" the depth of their shame.

Perhaps they felt "small, weak and inadequate."

"Ok, but wait a minute," you might be saying to yourselves. "Come on, I can understand that they felt this way at the crucifixion and after his death. Some of the disciples actually saw the risen Christ! True. Yet, what I think is so compelling and powerful about the scene that is painted for us in John 20 is a real, gritty truth of humanity. Many people are not able to receive the good news quickly if at all. Too many people get stuck in a moment. They get stuck in the **OVERWHELMING** nature of life.

The truth is life is hard. Life is full of the unexpected. Life can be full of heartbreak and disappointment. When we are overwhelmed, we hide behind our own locked doors because it seems easier and more secure. Yet, like the disciples, the difference of whether or not we will remain behind locked doors or whether we have the courage to get up and walk out the doors to face life again for us as believers comes down to **ONE THING**. Will we be able to receive the peace and presence of the Risen Christ in our midst even when life is hard?



Despite their overwhelming fears, the Risen Christ appears to the disciples. In John 20: 21 it says, "Again, Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them.'" This act of Jesus breathing his Spirit, his Holy Spirit, upon them is an act of commissioning them. He gives them his Peace, his Forgiveness, Grace, and Mercy. Yet, they must receive it in order to move forward. The same is true for us. Jesus through the power of the resurrection gives us HIS peace, HIS forgiveness, HIS grace, and HIS mercy. He stretches out his hand to pull us from the **OVERWHELMING** circumstances of our past and present. However, we must take hold of His hand. We must let go of the past and receive the future He has in store for us. If we do, we will discover what it means to be alive again. We will be alive, because He lives. Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

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

April 30

Participating in the Farewell Service for Pastor David Krueger at Concordia UCC, Belleville

May 7

Preaching at St. Paul UCC, Columbia

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

I am currently planning my worship schedule for August 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.

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Wesley and Doris Bornemann, Fenton, MO

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Kay (Bill) Ahaus as she recuperates from surgery. Kay is a member of Highland Evangelical UCC and a member of the ISC Justice & Witness Team. She also served as General Synod Delegate in 2015. Cards may be sent to 200 Rinderer Road, Trenton, IL 62293.

- 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.

Hurry!! Get Your Tickets NOW!! - Deadline is April 28!!

THANK YOU to Illinois South Conference members who plan to participate in DuBois on Broadway 2.0 as an attendee, volunteer worker, musician, and/or donor (cash, silent and/or oral auction items, etc.). This significant fund raiser will support DuBois Center's Reserve Fund to be used for unexpected major physical and/or program expenses in the future. There will be a collection which will allow us to purchase a WOW factor (new equipment) for the waterfront to excite campers of all ages.

April 28 is the deadline for purchasing tickets so we can provide an adequate food count and include sponsors and items in the program book. If you have purchased a table, we must have the names and addresses of all attendees by April 28 in order to prepare all necessary paperwork prior to the event. We ask that you help with promotion of the event too.

As of today, there are 15 oral-auction and 45 silent-auction entries, and we are still accepting more. Sneak a peek at a few oral auction items below. If you are unable to attend and want to bid, ask a friend to be your "absentia bidder" (of course, provide a limit). Cowboy Kolweier of Nashville will be our oral auctioneer.

For more information about tickets and/or auction items, please contact any of the following co-chairs:

Norma Borgmann nborgmann1658@charter.net 618-292-4617

Rick Porter rkp@agtelco.com 618-978-8765

Rev. Jerry Amiri jerryamiri@hotmail.com 618-488-3215

Once again, your support of DuBois Center is greatly appreciated. Thanks so much!!



#1



#2



#3

#1 A Korte's Meat Bundle--Donated by Friedens UCC Church, Troy

#2 Singing Telegram and personalized CD--Donated by Christine Brewer

#3 One week condominium-stay in Osage Beach, Mo--Donated by Rick and Kathy Porter



#4



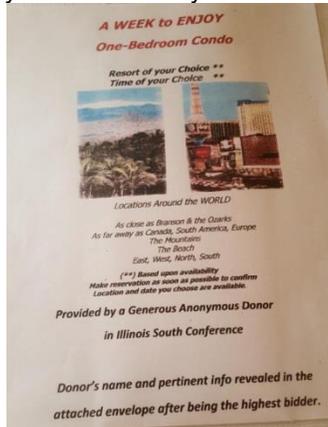
#5

#4 A Fold-Up Wagon with cooler, chairs, & games--Donated by Friedens UCC Church, Troy

#5 A Steak Dinner for 8 prepared & served in your home--Donated by Rick and Kathy Porter



#6



#7

#6 2 Reserved-Seat Cardinals vs Royals' Ball Tickets on 8/10--Donated by Levi and Renee Kolweier

#7 One week condominium-stay to a destination of your choice--Anonymous Donation

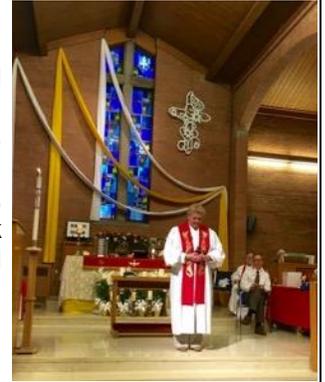


Rev. Rosemary thanks God

Ordination of Rev. Rosemary Captain

On Sunday, April 23, we in Illinois South Conference celebrated the ordination of Rosemary Captain at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon, Illinois. Rev. Rosemary Captain has been called to serve as pastor of St. John UCC in Fairview Heights.

Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. Your support of OCWM helps support ministry and work with seminaries, Conferences, associations, and local churches to nurture, train, authorize, and call pastors.



Schedule Your General Synod Update with One of these Delegates for after General Synod

Here are the delegates to General Synod from Illinois South Conference:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Kristian Avise-Rouse | Karen Gaines | Pastor Norma Patterson |
| Breanne Beisiegel | Brad Grotefendt | John Pawloski |
| Rev. Katie Jo Bielke | Carl Kasten | Rev. Patrick Poole |
| Rev. Tim Darmour Paul | Brett Palmer | David Shanks |
| Rev. Christy Eckert | Carolyn Palmer | Verna Steinkamp |

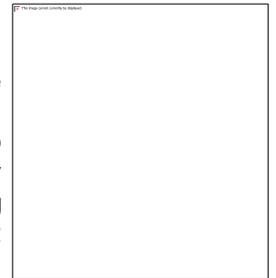
These delegates will be available after General Synod (June 30 - July 5) to share their experiences with churches throughout Illinois South Conference. Contact them to set a date to report to your congregation.



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

MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome Olivia Cruthis to DuBois Center's 2017 summer staff team! Olivia is an avid swimmer, lifeguard and horse lover - all helpful traits when serving as a Counselor /Activity Specialist. She is from Lebanon, Illinois and is a DuBois Center veteran, attending summer camp for nine years, including our CIT - Counselor in Training program in 2014. Last summer, Olivia returned to volunteer as a camp counselor. A student at Illinois College, she is majoring in secondary English education, with a music and theatre minor. She is also on the swimming and diving teams there. Olivia loves gymnastics, reading, artistic endeavors and Mexican food. It's not unusual to find her singing (perhaps even screaming) and dancing to Disney tunes in her dorm room. An active member of St. John UCC in Mascoutah, Olivia credits Rachael Berth, Minister of Youth and Christian Education, with nurturing her on her faith journey. "[She] has inspired me since she walked into my life when I was a freshman in high school; we were in the church choir together. She has helped me strengthen my relationship with God as well as help me find who I truly am." Olivia can't wait to spend the summer "praising God with all the kids and staff." She applied for the position because she loved camp so much as a kid, and as she got older, she saw the impact that the DuBois staff had on the campers and she wanted "to be a part of this amazing group of people."



Your OCWM monies at work.



WORK DAY Wrap-Up It was a soggy Saturday, but nothing dampened the spirits of the hardworking crew that turned out for the April Service Saturday. A HUGE THANKS to volunteers from Christ UCC in Dupu, Evangelical UCC in Highland, St. Jacob UCC and St. Paul UCC in Waterloo. Painting projects ranged from fence boards and picnic table seats to cottage bathrooms. Grimy chairs were deep cleaned, drop ceiling tiles replaced, and new fascia installed on some of the rustic cabins. This down and dirty work makes a significant difference! We are thankful for the new friends and their gifts of time and talent! **Your OCWM monies at work.**





CAMPS for YOUTH - Completing Grades 5-9

Whether your camper prefers the Main Camp cottages or the Rustic Village cabins, there are great options throughout the summer on both sides of the lake. Explore the marvels of God's creation through a scientific lens or hang out with the ponies. Make a big splash, enjoy a "classic" camp or try roughin' it. For this age group, individual choice times are a popular addition to the line-up. For details, pick up a brochure in your church office, click [here](#) for the online version or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. To register, go to DuBois [site](#) or click [here](#). Don't delay; some sessions are nearly full!

Session &

Grades Completed

Dates

Horsin' Around (5-7)	6/11-16, 7/9-14, 7/16-21
Splash! (5-7)	7/23-26
Base Camp Unleashed (5-8)	7/9-14
Trekkin' It (5-8)	6/11-16, 7/16-21
Outlander (6-9)	6/25-30, 7/9-14
Outpost Lab (6-9)	7/9-14
Saddle 'Em Up (7-9)	6/25-30, 7/16-21

Your OCWM monies at work.



QUILTS for Fall Festival

For over a decade, a quilt drawing has been a significant piece of the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival. In recent years, we have been blessed to have two or more art quality quilts each year which together have raised \$1500-\$2400 annually. The quilts are donated by local church quilting groups and other friends of DuBois Center. Specifications: queen or full size, appealing to a wide audience and made with love and prayers. Ideally, the quilts begin traveling to local churches in August, so a July completion date works well. If you or your quilting group might be interested in donating a quilt for the 2017 Fall Festival, please contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. We'd love to talk to you about the possibilities.

Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.

Crawdads, Crawfish, Crayfish, Mudbugs...

Whatever you call them, they're all over the grounds at DuBois Center! You might spot one of their stacked mud towers down by the creek, in a horse pasture, or even in the middle of grassy areas near the lake. Next time you go for a creek walk, tread lightly and observe - our resident creek lobsters are not hard to find. Just like humans, they are more active in the spring. If you're lucky,

you might see one swimming (backwards!) or even catch one! In honor of these curious crustaceans, enjoy these fun facts:

- Crayfish are relatives of lobster, shrimp, crab, krill and barnacles.
- They lay about 800 eggs at one time.
- Crayfish have eight pairs of legs; four are used for walking and four are used for swimming.
- Crayfish limbs can regenerate.

Their eyes move independently of each other.

In captivity, Crayfish live on average 2 years, but in the wild they have been known to live up to 30 years.



Don't Delay; Register Today!

Summer Adventures 2017 at DuBois Center are filling quickly - one is already full with a waiting list! There are still lots of great options available, but don't wait too long. Give you kids the gift of unplugged, joyful, low-tech fun this summer!

FULL - Just You & Me Camp

RECYCLE your GOLF CART

Planning to replace your golf cart this spring? Have one that is just taking up space? DuBois Center is in need of a 4-seat golf cart - gas or electric. Currently our nurses use a gator with two seats to respond to situations and deliver medication. If a camper needs to be transported back to the health center for treatment, there is no room for a third person. Renting a golf cart for the summer is very expensive, so we are exploring other options. You can help with this critical need and, perhaps, save some on your taxes. Donations are tax-deductible. For more information contact Shirley 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

St. Paul's Senior Community, First Bank, and Select Rehabilitation present their 2nd Annual Uncorked Event on Thurs, April 27 from 5 pm - 7 pm at the St. Paul's Senior Community. This is a special event to raise funds for charitable assistance for the residents of St. Paul's Senior Community. It will be a Wine Tasting and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Suggested donation \$30. Contact Elisha Engelmann at 618-509-4630 or eengelmann@standrews1.com. If you cannot attend but would like to make a donation, checks can be made to St. Paul's Foundation.

St. John's Community Care presents Surviving Caregiving, an insightful conference designed for family caregivers who wish to gain valuable knowledge and resources that will help them navigate the maze of caregiving, on Sat, April 29 at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Lunch is included. The keynote presentations are:

Legal and Financial Issues by Heidi Dodd, Attorney for Harter, Larson and Dodd

Medications - Benefits and Cautions by Brad Rea, Pharmacist and Hospice of Southern Illinois, Pharmacy Fellow

Caregiver Tips to Make Your Life Easier by Amy Sobrino, MSW Memory Care Home Solutions

Benefits of Therapy for Your Loved One by Rehabilitation Professionals, Inc.

Click [here](#) for flyer. Call 618-222-2561 to register.

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.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

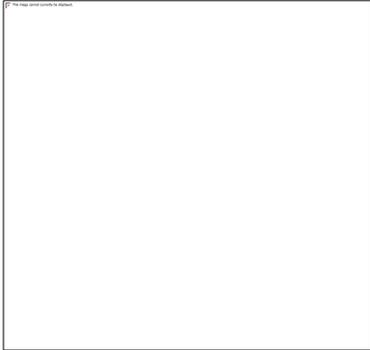
SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE + ACTION - Sponsored by United Congregations of Metro-East

BOOK STUDY #1 will discuss *SMALL GREAT THINGS: A NOVEL* 2016 by Jodi Picoult.

On Wednesdays, May 3 and 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.





Hunger Action Committee Workshop Series

Food Ministry Leaders are invited to an information-sharing event sponsored by the ISC Hunger Action Committee on May 9 from 11:30 am - 2 pm at the Community Interfaith Food Pantry, 1218 West Main, Belleville. Lunch will be provided by Christ UCC in Belleville.

Please RSVP to Margie Lindhorst at mlind@htc.net or 618-281-4090 to provide them with a head count for lunch. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

The Community Interfaith Food Pantry will share some of its successes. It dedicated its new home at 1218 W. Main in Belleville. In the old facility, patrons were crowded out the front door. Volunteers ran into each other trying to navigate carts through the small rooms and the limited storage space filled up fast. Generous donors, their hard-working board and volunteers and a generous grant from the Alan Shawn Feinstein

Foundation made possible the current spacious facility in a visible and accessible location on West Main. The Pantry is open 4 days a week.

Who and what is the Feinstein Foundation and can you apply for a grant? Come to the workshop to learn more.

Illinois South Conference Pastors Gathering

Calling folks interested in good conversation and a good meal as the Pastors/Spouses Fellowship Group gathers on Thursday, April 27 at 11:30 am at the Red Apple in Maryville. For being a group of mostly retired folks, we certainly have a good time together! Know that we welcome newcomers and familiar friends at any get-together. Please call 618-476-3925 or email (herbenne@wisperhome.com) Herb & Bennie Schafale.

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.



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.

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.

It is a rigorous, engaging class that is convenient for those who are bi-vocational, have full schedules, or odd sleep habits! It is designed to meet the needs of students with different learning styles and varying levels of formal education. The facilitators for the class are fully engaged and available throughout the class to the students. The course has evolved and adapted over the years to the changes in the UCC and the changing needs of those seeking authorization for ministry.

Tim Downs, who will be the lead instructor, has been teaching this course for almost 20 years, and online for the last seven years. Heather Bardole will be the lead facilitator for the course. Heather has worked with Tim in facilitating this class for six years; is a MID with the Southeast Conference; and currently serves as the administrator of the Southeast Conference. Laura Robinson, a MID in the Pacific Northwest and a graduate of Candler School of Theology, will be the assistant facilitator for the class.

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.

Equality Illinois presents EqualityCon 2017 on May 6, 2017 in Springfield, IL at the State House Inn. It is a one-day conference in Springfield bringing together the state's LGBTQ community with allies, progressive advocates, civic leaders and community groups. Speakers and panel discussions will cover a wide range of topics including adoption by LGBTQ parents, updating legal documents for transgender Illinoisans, LGBTQ rights in the schools, and much more. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

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.

St. John UCC in Wood River is having their annual Plant and Bake Sale on Sat, May 6 from 9 am to 2 pm. Hanging baskets, potted geraniums, and more will be available for purchase, as well as a variety of delicious homemade baked goods.

Region 5

Marine UCC will host the 16th annual Trivia Night benefiting Hoyleton Youth & Family Services on Sat, April 29. Door prizes. Raffle. Cost \$12 per person, 8 players to a table, \$96 for a team/table. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place winning teams. Contact 618-887-4465 to reserve a table for trivia or purchase raffle tickets.

Region 8

New Athens St. John's UCC will hold its Chicken Dinner on May 7 from 11 am - 2 pm. Drive through open 11 am - 1 pm. All you care to eat includes fresh fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, slaw, dessert, and drink. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 10 years \$5; Children under 5 Free.

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.*

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.

June 12 - 16; 9 am - 12 pm; Maestown 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.*

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 9 - 13; 6 pm - 8 pm; Granite City St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

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 Christian Church, 1st Presbyterian 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; 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!*