



# Festival of Faith 2018

## God's Calling You!

Sponsored by VoX and the  
Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ

## INFORMATION PACKET

### PARTICIPATION

**Theme:** "God's Calling You". The United Church of Christ is born out of two major strands of Protestantism and from a famous thought from Martin Luther, *A priesthood of all believers*. The Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and the UCC affirm that God uses each person to further God's kingdom and bring it here to earth amongst us all. God's Calling You...are you ready to listen?

**Youth:** Festival of Faith is for youth currently in grades 6-8 and their adult chaperones.

**Chaperones:** Adults, age 21 and older. A **minimum** of 1 adult chaperone is required for each 7 or fewer youth participants. Churches are also asked to provide male and female chaperones in proportion to the male/female break-down of their group (i.e. 2 male and 6 female youth = one male and one female chaperone.) This requirement is related to supervision in sleeping areas. Churches are encouraged to team up with other churches in their area to make this work. If you are having a problem with this, please contact Christy Pursell at [cpursell@iscucc.org](mailto:cpursell@iscucc.org) or 618-654-2125.

### DATES & LOCATION

Saturday, February 17, 2018 through Sunday, February 18, 2018  
DuBois Center • 2651 Quarry Road • DuBois, Illinois 62831

### ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

The event begins with check-in from 2:00 to 2:30 pm on Saturday afternoon. The program will begin promptly at 2:45 pm, so plan to arrive in time to get settled. Dinner will be provided on Saturday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Sunday, and the event will end at 2:00 pm.

### CONTACTS & IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

#### BEFORE the Event

**Program:** Craig Bielke at [bielkecraig@gmail.com](mailto:bielkecraig@gmail.com) or (210) 383-0385  
**Registrar:** Christy Pursell at [cpursell@iscucc.org](mailto:cpursell@iscucc.org) or (618) 654-2125

#### DURING the Event

**Leadership:** Craig Bielke at (210) 383-0385  
**DuBois Center:** On-Call Pager at (618) 791-6545

Please use these "during the event" numbers only in case of an emergency. Participants and leaders will be out and about involved in the program during most of the day and evening.

## \$ EVENT FEE \$

\$60 per person, limited to first 80 youth and chaperones that have sent a space reservation form and deposit postmarked by January 17, 2018, and have paid the balance and sent in the registration and required paperwork postmarked by February 6, 2018. After this date, the cost will be \$65 per registration.

The event fee for each youth and adult participant includes one night's lodging. Dinner will be provided on Saturday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Sunday.

## REFUNDS

\$10 of the event fee is considered to be the deposit. Deposits are **NON-REFUNDABLE**. Payments for the balance of the event fees are refundable **ONLY** if cancellation is received by Friday, February 9, 2018.

## EXPECTATIONS OF CHAPERONES AND YOUTH

Enclosed are two documents: *Youth Participant Covenant* and *Adult Participant Covenant*. Please review these with both your youth and your chaperones PRIOR TO arriving at DuBois Center.

## HOUSING

Housing will be assigned according to gender (males together, females together). Local church groups will be assigned together for overnight lodging when possible. Smaller groups may be combined within cottages. Chaperones should work in advance with neighboring churches to ensure adequate supervision in male and female sleeping areas. If you are having problems with this coverage, check with Christy Pursell as soon as possible at 618-654-2125 or [cpursell@iscucc.org](mailto:cpursell@iscucc.org). Notes regarding arrangements for male-female sleeping area coverage should be sent with the Group Reservation Form, so housing can be correctly assigned.

## HEALTH CONCERNS - VERY IMPORTANT!!

Local church chaperones are responsible for first aid & health issues for their participants. Chaperones should carry ***Permission to Treat*** authorizations for each adult and youth attendee and come prepared with basic first aid supplies. NOTE: The authorizations included on the "Permission and Authorization" form include this authorization. Be sure chaperones keep a copy for their use. In an emergency, the event coordinator will provide back-up supplies and support. We recommend that medications be kept by the church chaperones. ***It is the responsibility of the family and/or each local church to provide health and accident coverage for their participants.***

## ADULT LEADERSHIP - SAFE CHURCH/CONDUCT VERIFICATION

The Illinois South Conference and many of our churches have adopted "Safe Conduct" policies as tools to help us provide the safest environment possible for those we serve. Implementation of these policies is ongoing. We have instituted procedures for adult chaperones and other adult leaders involved in Conference-sponsored youth programs with an overnight component. Even though youth attend these events with chaperones from their own church, they are often involved with adults from other churches in small group settings and, sometimes, in the sleeping areas.

In addition to the **Registration & Health Information** form and **Permission and Authorization Form**, adult attendees need to submit the following:

1. Disclosure Statement dated within the past 12 months
2. State of Illinois, Department of Children and Family Services AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK, or a completed background check that has been returned from the State, dated within the past 12 months. **If your church already utilizes the DCFS system**, a copy of a current report signed by the pastor, dated within the past 12 months, may be submitted, and an AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK WILL NOT BE NEEDED.

**START NOW** to ensure that you have a report in hand by the **February 6, 2018** deadline for forms. If you have questions about this procedure, contact the Festival of Faith Registrar.

## **POLICY ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

The possession and/or use of tobacco products is not allowed by persons under the age of 18 and/or **ANY YOUTH PARTICIPANTS**, even those who are 18 years of age or older, at any ISC sponsored youth event. The use of tobacco products by adult chaperones is allowed only at designated times and in designated places. There is no smoking in any building at DuBois Center, within 15 feet of any building, in the woods, or near flammable materials, such as dried leaves.

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE**

The possession and/or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs or controlled substances will not be allowed at any Conference-sponsored youth event or retreat. The one exception might be the provision of wine as an option during communion. This includes every participant and leader, youth and adult. Such activity is destructive to the spirit of Christian community we hope to build at all our youth events. The possession and/or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs or controlled substances will result in the offending parties being sent home **AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE**.

# FESTIVAL OF FAITH 2018

## THINGS NOT TO BRING

Please **DO NOT** bring expensive or valuable items or lots of money or any of the items listed below:

Illegal drugs or controlled substances • alcohol or tobacco products • skate boards • fireworks • weapons (including knives & hand guns) • food for the bunk room (Bugs love it!) • clothing that promotes sex, violence, alcohol, drugs, etc. (e.g., NO Co-ed Naked, Budweiser, etc.) • inappropriate clothing - too tight, too short, too revealing • items that will detract from the event

**The Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center and their staff/representatives are not responsible for the loss, damage or theft of property.**

## CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIST (Do Bring)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-packaged Snacks to SHARE with entire group in Oak Lodge (*Youth group leaders, consider bringing a reasonable amount of snacks to share from your group—rather than each youth bringing snacks--so we do not have an overabundance of calorie/sugar-laden food.*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Water bottle

\_\_\_\_\_ Comfortable, warm clothes for two days

\_\_\_\_\_ Two pairs of shoes and two pairs of dry socks

\_\_\_\_\_ PJ's

\_\_\_\_\_ Rain gear, Sweaters, Gloves and a Jacket (Weather permitting, some activities will be outside.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sleeping bag (or sheets & blankets) and pillow

\_\_\_\_\_ Wash Kit (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Towel and Wash Cloth

\_\_\_\_\_ Bible

\_\_\_\_\_ Paper & Pens or Pencils

\_\_\_\_\_ Money for Worship Offering (More information to be provided closer to the event date)

\_\_\_\_\_ Any extra \$\$ needed for the trip to and from the event

\_\_\_\_\_ Any Necessary Medication (*Please be sure that the home church advisor is aware of any medications to be taken and any special medical considerations.*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Any Necessary Forms, if not already turned in

\_\_\_\_\_ Camera (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_ Enthusiasm, Spirit, Energy and Smiles!