

Weekly Connection

For the Week of March 25, 2018 - March 31, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Stains or Stained Glass?

In Marcia McFee's Lenten series entitled "Holy Vessels," she speaks on acknowledging those places in our lives that feel "stained" in order to reclaim them as places of beauty and healing which can become "stained glass." She goes on to invite the reader/worshiper to consider how "together with the gift of community, we can create new and different pictures of our

lives-different than the ones drawn for us or imprinted upon us without our permission."

Her words struck a chord and I began to think about our "stained" places as the internal scripts we often carry in our hearts, minds, and spirits. These scripts often get in the way of us seeing, claiming, and experiencing fully an image of others and ourselves as what McFee calls "holy vessels" through which the image of God is carried and reflected in the world.

To give you an example of what I mean by such scripts, I want to share very vulnerably with you as an invitational "I'll go first" style by sharing the scripts of my own family. (Don't worry just as I have always practiced in my preaching life, I asked their permission to use their stories.)

My husband

When I first met Todd, he was running as far away from ministry as he could. Even though it was clear to many that there was a call on his life, for a long time he fought against that call. Growing up, both his grandfather and father were parish pastors. In watching them, he learned church life could be difficult.

As a seminary professor once confirmed for him, "No one can love you like the church and no one can hurt you like the church." He also believed to be a pastor he had to be perfect, but he knew he wasn't perfect so he thought he could not answer a call into ministry.

The script he developed was that church life can be painful and clergy need to be perfect.

Finally, he could no longer fight the call, and he learned from other pastors that pastors were simply ordinary, imperfect people who had been called by an extraordinary and perfect God to serve as best as they were able.

Yet, even now the script remains and can often come to the surface when people expect clergy to be perfect.

Our oldest daughter

When we moved from a church I was serving in Missouri to a new church in the Chicago area, of course, Abby had to start a new school. As she entered junior high, we quickly learned the curriculum of the Chicago school system was much further ahead of the St. Louis schools. She had to work hard and she struggled to catch up.

The script she developed was that she was not smart, and she was not a good student.

In high school, she identified more as an athlete than as a student. However, when she got to college, she rediscovered a love of learning. Once again, she enjoyed school and more importantly developed an insatiable hunger for knowledge.

Yet, even now, the script remains and I can see and hear it come to the surface when she calls me in a panic about an upcoming test or paper. Even though she has a 4.0 GPA at Saint Louis University, will graduate with honors and many academic awards this spring, there are times when she still feels like she is not smart or a good student.

Our youngest daughter

Megan is twenty-one, but because of some specific health issues, her body- and bone-ages are more at the chronological age of a 13 year old. Megan has dealt

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Pray for...

Prayer list for March 25-31 Churches & Pastors

- Cahokia Bethel UCC, Rev. Carol (David) Shanks
- Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd, Rev. Kim (Dr. Aaron Newcomb) Magwire

with some tough issues and has become a very mature, resilient young woman. She wears a lot of makeup, heels, and very grown up clothes to cover up her insecurities.

The script she has developed is that people will always see her as younger than she is and will not take her seriously or see her as an adult.

Even though at every job she has ever worked, the owners always offer her lead, manager positions, her script says, others do not and will not see her as a twenty-one-year-old young woman capable of handling grown up responsibilities.

Me

When I was younger, I struggled with my weight. I dreaded the back to school shopping rituals in which my mother would often struggle to find me properly fitting clothes. My family affectionately called me "chunky." At family gatherings, extended family members would watch what I ate and comment to my parents about how odd it was that I weighed as much as I did when it seemed I ate so little. In high school and college, I exercised obsessively and I developed an eating disorder, but I was thin.

After I had children, I was tired of working so hard to be a normal size. Having daughters, I also wanted to break the cycle of poor body image, so I quit obsessing over losing weight and trying to be a size I probably wasn't created to be.

I continue to struggle with my weight. I find it frustrating that I have gained success in many parts of my life, but in this area, I still struggle.

Recently, I was reminded again how much this script still affects me. As I looked at the incredible photos that people took the time to take at my installation, instead of focusing on how precious it was that they had captured some incredible holy moments, I am embarrassed to say that my first thought was, "Gosh, I look so fat." My script immediately surfaced.

Even though I do many things well, the script that I carry with me is that people will not fully love me or accept me until I am thin.

Our stories, our scripts, our stains

I wanted to share with you our stories and invite you to think about your own. Each of us has similar stories. Each of us carry a script (or two) in our head that rob us of seeing and accepting the whole picture of ourselves. They are our stains.

Yet, our stains can become part of the bigger, beautiful mosaic, stained glass work of grace. Just as it is proclaimed in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "*So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of a new creation. The old things have gone away, look the new things have arrived* (The Message version)."

However, in order for this transformation to happen, we must be willing to be vulnerable and honest with each other and ourselves. We must be willing to wrestle with questions such as: What is getting in the way of us reflecting and claiming the beauty of God's design? What scripts do we have about ourselves? What scripts do we have about others that rob us of the opportunity of truly seeing and experiencing the image of God in them?

The beautiful mosaic of the Church

I believe the gift of the church is that we CAN "create new and different pictures of our lives-different than the ones drawn for us or imprinted upon us without our permission." This can happen when we invite and allow the transforming power of God to be at work in and through our lives. The beautiful mosaic of the Church of Jesus Christ is that coming together of people who are not perfect, only forgiven, blessed, and made new through the power and presence of Christ's healing grace.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 25

Worshiping at St. Paul UCC Belleville

March 29

Worshiping and officiating communion at St. Paul UCC Belleville

April 8

Preaching at Immanuel UCC, Hamel

April 15

Preaching at St. John UCC, Wood River

Worshiping at St. John UCC, Fairview Heights for Rev. Rosemary Captain's Installation

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Robert Schmidt, Springfield, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Keep Kyle Nuetzel (24) in your prayers as he recovers from a serious car accident.

Kyle is the son of Kathy Nuetzel, the fiancée of Rev. Patrick Poole. Rev. Poole is the pastor at Maeystown St. John UCC. Kyle and his mom live in the St. Charles area.

- Please pray for the family of Vern Yaeger, father of Becky (David) Harrison, who died last week. Becky is a member of St. Paul UCC in Lebanon and their office support person. She has served on several ISC teams throughout the years. You may send a card to her at 1031 Merrill St, Lebanon, IL 62254.

April 22

Preaching at Godfrey Evangelical UCC

Preaching at Zion UCC, Central City for Rev. Nancy Pebbles' Installation

April 29

Worshiping at Zion UCC, Waterloo for Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee's Farewell Service

THIS IS YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

To invite me to your church for a particular event, season in the life of the church, or a special occasion, please reach out to me via email at sjohnson@iscucc.org or by phone at 618-654-2125 (office phone) or 618-882-8247.



Illinois South Conference Churches Honor Rev. Shana Johnson

Rev. Shana Johnson was honored by the generous donations from all churches in Illinois South Conference by the gifts they gave to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and Friends of the Conference at the Installation Service on Saturday, March 3 at Evangelical UCC in Highland. The total giving for OCWM was \$1,891.87 and for Friends of the Conference \$1,575 for a total of \$3,466.87. Rev. Shana Johnson said, "It was heartwarming to experience the generosity of the churches and the attendance for my installation. I am truly blessed to be in Illinois South Conference."

Did You Know? - Liturgical Colors represent the seasons of the church year...

The use of colors to differentiate liturgical seasons became a common practice in the Western church in about the fourth century. At first, usages varied considerably, but by the 12th century Pope Innocent III systematized the use of five colors: Violet, White, Black, Red and Green. The Lutheran and Anglican churches that emerged from the Reformation retained the traditional colors but they disappeared entirely (along with most other rituals) from the worship of the Reformed churches. During the 20th century, the ecumenical Liturgical Movement prompted the rediscovery of ancient Christian ritual-including the traditional colors of the Western church. To these have been added Blue and Gold-colors that were used in some Western rites before the 12th century.

Briefly, the colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year. Violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Violet is also associated with repentance from sin. White and Gold symbolize the brightness of day. Black is the traditional color of mourning in some cultures. Red evokes the color of blood, and therefore is the color of martyrs and of Christ's death on the Cross. Red also symbolizes fire, and therefore is the color of the Holy Spirit. Green is the color of growth. Blue is the color of the sky and in some rites honors Mary.

Congregations in the United Church of Christ have the freedom to use any combination of colors (or no particular colors) as seems best to them. The use of traditional colors, however, connects us to the wider Body of Christ and provides worship planners with visual aids that mark the transition from one season to another. Colors can be used in altar and pulpit decorations, vestments, banners and tapestries. *(Taken from ucc.org - Book of Worship)*

Holy Week

During Holy Week, the congregation follows the footsteps of Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem (Palm/Passion Sunday) through the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday) to his death on the Cross (Good Friday). Red, the color of blood and therefore of martyrs, is the traditional color for Palm/Passion Sunday and the next three days of Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, White or Gold symbolizes the church's rejoicing in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. But at the end of the Maundy Thursday celebration, the mood changes abruptly: all decorations are removed and the Holy Table is stripped bare. The church becomes as empty as a tomb. On Good Friday, either Black or Red is customary-although the use of no color at all is also appropriate. The Red of Holy Week is sometimes a deeper red than the brighter scarlet color associated with Pentecost. Read [more](#)...



Get Your Youth Together for a Trip to Chicago and the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event

The Great Lakes Regional Youth Event (GLRYE) is scheduled for July 5 - 8, 2018 at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois. The theme this year is: *A Just World for All: Your Voice Matters!*

Come ponder, pray, and play guided by the 3 Great Loves: neighbor, children, and creation in the UCC's mission statement: *United in Christ's*

love, a just world for all.

GLRYE is open to all youth grades 6 - 12 (youth who have finished 6th grade through those who have just finished 12th grade). **Early Bird registration per person for double occupancy in sleeping room is \$300 through May 1. Regular Registration after May 1 through June 1 is \$325 per person for double occupancy in the sleeping room. Late registration from June 2 through June 15 is \$350 per person for double occupancy.** If your group cannot pay by credit card, contact Lisa Hart at glrye18reg@gmail.com for assistance. The registration fees listed include lodging, event t-shirt and meals. Additional required paperwork will be emailed out after receiving confirmation email. Please note: Youth Group Leaders and Youth Group Chaperones must be 22 years old or older.

Rev. R.J. Morgan, Pastor at Zoar UCC New Hanover, has agreed to be the group coordinator. There has been some discussion about riding the train to Chicago rather than drive or take a bus. The fee looks like about \$30 one way from St. Louis. However, churches can make their own travel arrangements to get to Elmhurst College. If your church has interest in attending RYE, please let us know and tell us who your contact person will be. Then watch for further emails from the ISC office and/or Rev. R.J. Morgan for more details.

Click [here](#) to like the GLYRE Facebook page and keep updated on plans, and click [here](#) to register youth from your church.

The St. Louis area AUCE (Association of United Church Educators) is planning the *Better Together: Children and Family Ministry Resource Fair* on Sat, April 7 from 8:45 am - 1 pm at Eden Seminary Main Building, 475 E Lockwood Ave, St. Louis. There is no cost to attend. You can look forward to resource samples, book tables (sharing personal resources so you can look before you buy), workshops including OWL, LOGOS, Godly Play, and a Mult-Generational Faith Formation Roundtable. The morning will conclude with a "sample" of Messy Church model of ministry! Click [here](#) for a flyer.



DuBois Center News

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



MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome Laura Renken to our 2018 summer staff team! This will be Laura's second summer on staff; she will again be serving as a Counselor/Activity Specialist and utilizing her skills as a seasoned lifeguard. Laura hails from Hamel, Illinois and is an active member of Salem UCC in Alhambra. Laura is a student at Eastern Illinois University where she is studying elementary education. At school, she is active in a Bible study group that has helped her to grow in her ability to share and discuss her faith with others. They have also, "helped me a lot with being proud of my faith and not feeling like I needed to hide

my faith in order to fit in. I can be proud of who I am and who God has made me to be." When asked about future plans, five years from now, Laura hopes to be teaching second or third grade. Not a surprise! Working with children has long been a priority for her. Before serving on our summer staff, Laura was a regular VBS volunteer; she completed our Counselors in Training (CIT) Program and served as a camp volunteer. She is returning this summer because, "Working with the campers was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life." Her favorite place at camp is Meditation Point. She loves seeing all the stars and the lake at night in a "very humbling place" where she feels "immersed in God's presence." In addition to starry nights, Laura loves swimming in the summer and biking whenever it's warm outside. She likes to doodle, knit, crochet, sing and practice her ukulele and guitar. Her favorite foods are oatmeal chocolate chip cookies, watermelon and grapes - all staples at summer camp.



WRANGLE & RIDE Saturday, April 21

Join our equestrian team on Saturday, April 21 from 9am - 5pm for a full day of fun with the DuBois Center herd! Designed for both beginner and experienced riders, this is a horse-intensive day of grooming, tacking, riding, instruction and other horse-related activities. Beginners will be introduced to basic skills, while experienced riders work on more advanced options. The cost for this event is \$60 with lunch included. Sign up now - this event fills quickly! Register by March 31 and save \$5. Final registration deadline is April 7 - if space is still available. Click [here](#) for a flyer and reservation form or register [online](#). Questions? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.

I GOT MINE! Did you get yours?

Brochures, posters and other helpful promotional materials have been mailed to Illinois South Conference churches. USPS tracking shows that all the packets have been delivered. If your church has not received theirs - first, check around for a white Priority Mail box or a manila envelope. No luck? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Also let us know if you would like to receive additional copies of any of the items in the packet. In addition, all the pieces in the Big Camp Mailing can be found in the About Us section our [website](#).



What will you do this summer?
SUMMER 2018
**Do More
Do Better
DuBois**

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



EARLY BIRD DEADLINE

Thursday, April 5

All you need to be singing a happy Early Bird tune is a completed 2018 Summer Camp Registration Form and \$50 non-refundable deposit. Save \$20 on full-week sessions and \$10 on part-week sessions. Register and pay [online](#), or postmark your registration form and deposit by April 5. If your church pays part of the camp fee, we will send them an invoice later in the summer. To receive a summer camp brochure - check in your church office, view it [online](#), download it along with this registration [form](#), or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

FATHER-SON RETREAT

Early Bird Deadline March 23

The annual DuBois Center Father-Son Retreat is just around the corner - April 13-15. Quality time together, cool activities, "fellow"-ship with dads and lads of all ages, with opportunities to explore God's love woven throughout the day. For more information, check out this [flyer](#) and reservation form, or register [online](#) today. Final registration deadline is March 30.



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



Marine United Church of Christ will host an evening of friendly competition with Hoyleton Youth & Family Services as the winner! The church is set to host the 17th annual Trivia Night benefiting Hoyleton Youth & Family Services on Sat, April 28. Join the hosts for challenging trivia, door prizes and more. The cost is \$12 per person, with up to 8 players to a table. The church is located at the intersection of Center Street and Hwy 143 in Marine. Prizes will

be awarded to the first and second place winning teams. Contact the church at 618-887-4465 to reserve a table for trivia or click [here](#).

Do you belong to your churches men's or women's group? Or one of the church fellowship groups? If so, does your group need a speaker?



St. John's Community Care would be happy to come to your church, to present information on caregiving, including relevant aging topics and helpful resources. St. John's Community Care speakers are experts in the field of elder care, dementia and family dynamics. Its presentations focus on helping aging and disabled people live at home as independently and as long as possible and helping family caregivers and their loved ones experience less stress. With this information, caregivers can often avoid having to sacrifice their employment, daily responsibilities, health, rest and/or leisure activities. St. John's Community Care is willing to come to your location (within a 25 mile radius of Collinsville). You can pick the best time that is convenient for your group. For more information email mathmer@stjohnscc.org. Click [here](#) to learn more about the topics of the presentations.

Surviving Caregiving, A MAP THROUGH THE MAZE, is an insightful conference designed for family caregivers who wish to gain valuable knowledge and resources that will help them navigate the maze of caregiving. The Conference is Sat, April 28 from 9:30 am 2:30 pm at St. John Evangelical UCC's Faith Hall, 307 West Clay Street (rear), Collinsville, IL 62234. To register call Age Smart Community Resources at 618-222-2561. This conference is free, but registration is required. Box lunch included. Complimentary care will be available at St. John's Adult Day Center during the conference hours. Pre-registration for adult day service is required. Contact Stacey Rhodes at 618-344-5008. Surviving Caregiving is co-presented by: St. John's Community Care, AgeSmart Community Resources and Hospice of Southern Illinois.

2nd Annual Night at the Improv

Uni-Pres Kindercottage presents **Night at the Improv on Sat. April 14 at St. Paul UCC, 115 W "B" St, Belleville.** A night of Laughter, Frivolity & Jocularly featuring Ed Reggi and The Paper Slips Theater. Doors open for silent auction at 5 pm. Dinner and show at 6 pm. Here are two ways to promote the event at your churches. Click [here](#) for a bulletin insert. Click [here](#) for a pdf to be placed on your PowerPoint slides during your services. Or save the above slide for your PowerPoint presentation.



What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

100 Plus Copies of the E&R Hymnal- FREE

Concordia UCC near Belleville has 100-plus copies of the 1941 Evangelical & Reformed Hymnal (Eden Publishing House) free for any interested church. You must arrange pick up of the hymnals. Contact: Dougas Anders-Interim Minister (314.546.6772 or douglas.uccrev@att.net). If interested, please respond promptly. If there is no interest, we plan to dispose of the hymnals by April 15.

St. John's UCC Midway presents a Personal Safety and Self-Awareness Presentation on April 15 from 1 pm - 3 pm. This is an ESSENTIAL Class for anyone and everyone! Learn more about awareness and protecting yourself! We tackle this very serious issue while learning techniques to empower and defend ourselves against acts of aggression and violence! While much of the class is geared to women, men will learn personal safety as well as what is necessary for your wives, daughters, mothers and sisters to stay safe. Leslie Sphar Reeves, owner of All You Studio and Party Place in Troy, IL will be presenting. She has an extensive training and experience in self-defense, conceal carry, and physical fitness. Learn about distractions, intuition, psychology of fighting and more! This is a speaking engagement only; there will not be a physical demonstration during this presentation. Put more tools in your SELF DEFENSE and AWARENESS Toolbox! Great for college students, mother, daughters, sisters, office staff or anyone else! You are worth defending! No registration required to attend. Contact 618-377-9288.

Join St. John UCC in Fairview Heights for
the installation of

Reverend Rosemary Captain

April 15, 2018 at 3 pm

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10207 LINCOLN TRAIL, FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

Pastors who wish to participate are asked to robe with a red stole and arrive 1/2 hour prior to the service.



Join Zion UCC in Central City for
the installation of

Reverend Nancy C.L. Peebles

April 22, 2018 at 3 pm

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

101 N BROADWAY, CENTRAL CITY, ILLINOIS

Please RSVP to: 618-532-1751 or zionuccil@att.net

Following the service of worship, all are invited to a Celebration Tea.

Pastors who wish to participate are asked to robe with a red stole and arrive 1/2 hour prior to the service.

Save the Date!!

The Illinois South Conference Confirmation Retreat is a tool for enhancing youth ministry in local congregations and a time for personal spiritual renewal. It is designed as a supplement to the confirmation program of our local churches and it offers a unique opportunity for confirmation classes from across the Conference to bond within and between their groups. Music, worship, theme presentations, play times, discussion groups, and "hang out time" are all part of the retreat. If this sounds of interest to your confirmands/leaders, then please save the date for the 2018 Confirmation Retreat - September 14-15, 2018 at DuBois Center. And please make sure to include this retreat in your upcoming confirmation paperwork.

Our Whole Lives(OWL): Sexuality and Our Faith Facilitator Training will be held from April 12 - 14 at the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 10 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO. Meals are included with the training. Training begins with a meal at 4 pm on Thursday, April 12 and ends on Sat, April 14 at 4 pm. You will have a choice of training levels of K-1, 4-6, Secondary or Adult. All participants must purchase and/or bring with them a copy of the curriculum for the levels they are being trained on. Before the training, contact the UUA bookstore or UCC Resources to purchase the materials. Registration deadline is April 2. Click [here](#) for registration form or contact Tracey Harris at tracey.harris@firstchurchwg.org.

Regions 5 and 3 are teaming up to present *A Face in the Crowd* for Lenten services. Each week, the location will move from church to church. Services will be at 7 pm each Wednesday evening with refreshments following the services. All are invited. For more information, contact the host church for that week. The schedule is as follows.
Wednesday, March 21 - Grantfork UCC, Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul

FREE High Chairs

Evangelical UCC in Highland has six high chairs available to give to anyone in need of one. Please contact the office at 618-654-7459 or bbray@evucc.org. First come, first served.



Earth Day 2018 is Sunday, April 22, making it an excellent opportunity to center worship services & activities around: Environmental Awareness - Stewardship - Justice - and Climate Change.

Earth Day is now a global event each year, and we believe that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.

It is a day of political action and civic participation. People march, sign petitions, meet with their elected officials, plant trees, clean up their towns and roads. Corporations and governments use it to make pledges and announce sustainability measures. Faith leaders, including Pope Francis, connect Earth Day with protecting God's greatest creations, humans, biodiversity and the planet that we all live on.

Earth Day Network, the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, today announced that Earth Day 2018 will focus on mobilizing the world to End Plastic Pollution. For information, click [here](#).



Earth Hour is a global WWF (formerly known as World Wildlife Fund) climate change initiative. It is an event that aims to create awareness of people taking responsibility towards a sustainable future by turning the lights off around the world from 8:30-9:30 pm in each time zone. Usually it is the last Saturday in March, but this year it will be March 24th - the 4th Saturday of March 2018. Some people enjoy Earth Hour with a candle-lit dinner or a candle-lit bath, while others host large events or parties, either in darkness or with candles, to celebrate Earth Hour. For more information, click [here](#).

Region 2

Dupo Christ UCC will sponsor A Night at the Races on Fri, March 23 in Sugar Loaf Township Bldg in Dupo beginning at 7 pm. It will be an action-packed, heart-pounding, video-taped horse racing event. Doors open at 6 pm. 50/50 raffle. Silent auction. Bring your own food and drinks. All proceeds go to Christ UCC. \$10/person. Must be 18 years old to attend.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service on March 29 at 7:30 pm in Dupo Christ UCC will be The Last Supper Tableau, an inspirational hour in the Upper Room where you will hear the disciples' testimony of the Master. All are welcome.

Dupo Christ UCC will hold an All You Can Eat Chicken & Dumpling Dinner on Sun, April 8 from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm. Dinner includes chicken, dumplings, green beans, carrots, cole slaw, bread and dessert. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 12 \$4; Children under 5 Free. Carry outs available. Call 618-286-4211.

Region 3

St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will hold its 10th Auction - the Main Event - on the evening of April 7. Lots of great items to bid on!! Proceeds benefit their Homework, Help and Hoops after-school and summer programs as well as their Home and Community Care program of in-house and home service programs for the elderly. All are welcome to attend. For tickets, contact the church at 618-344-2526 or St. John's Community Care at 618-407-0343.

Region 4

Brighton St. John's UCC will hold a Fish Fry on Fri, March 23 serving from 11 am - 6 pm. Menu includes: White or Buffalo fish dinners including bread, choice of potato salad, baked beans, green beans, mac and cheese, coleslaw, and desserts galore. Hot dogs, brats and drinks also available. Sandwich \$5 or Meal (fish, two sides, dessert and drink) \$10. Deliveries to area businesses and schools during lunch hour. Call church at 618-372-3737.

St. John UCC in Wood River will have its annual Lenten Fish Fry-day on March 23 from 4 pm - 7 pm. All you can eat white fish with choice of 2 sides: potato salad, cole slaw or baked beans, drinks and dessert for \$9. Kids 6 - 10, \$5; Kids 5 and under are free. Sandwich only for \$5.

Region 5

Exhale youth group at Salem UCC in Alhambra will host a Trivia Night and Silent Auction on Sat, April 14. Doors open at 6 pm. There will be soda for sale. Free water. Bring snacks for your table. 50/50. Cost is \$10/person with up to 10 per table. Proceeds will help them raise funds for their summer mission trip to Houston. Contact 618-520-0185 or rjbraundmeier@gmail.com.

Region 8

Zion UCC in New Baden will hold its dine in or carry out Fish Fry on Fri, March 30 from 4 pm - 6:30 pm. Menu includes cod tail or catfish, mac and cheese, fries or chips, cole slaw and dessert. \$8/dinner. Good Friday Worship Service at 7 pm.

Region 9

St. John UCC in Fairview Heights will hold its Pancake Breakfast on Sun, March 25 from 8:30 am - 9:30 am. All-you-can-eat pancakes, bacon, fruit salad, and drinks. A \$5 free-will offering is appreciated, but any contribution is welcome.