

Weekly Connection

For the Week of April 29, 2018 - May 5, 2018
 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference and more...

"Take what you need, bring what you can, and above all be blessed." That's the sign on Zion UCC's new Blessing Box. The congregation of Zion UCC in Marion dedicated this free pantry on April 15. It is stocked with non-perishable foods for people to take home to prepare a meal, single serving items that can be eaten right on the



street, along with soaps, baby wipes, and toilet paper. In the winter you might find a pair of gloves or socks in the box and in the summer perhaps a hat or suntan lotion. The Blessing Box is some distance from the local food pantry, and it is thought to be the first of its kind in Marion. It has already been found and utilized by many in the neighborhood. Volunteers will take charge of keeping the box filled for a week at a time. Church members donated the materials for the Blessing Box, and others built it, painted it, and made the signage. Special thanks to the ISC Hunger Action Committee for the idea to start this ministry, along with a \$250 grant to initially stock the shelves. In the photo, Janet Martin, chair of Zion's Mission Committee, and Rev. John Holst participate in the dedication service.

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 April 29-May 5 Churches & Pastors

- Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC, Pastor Nancy (Scott) Shubert
- DuBois St. Mark's UCC, Pastor Tom (Marcia) Ellison



On April 20, twenty very enthusiastic Uni-Pres Kindercottage preschoolers celebrated Earth Day by planting a raised-bed vegetable garden. The children also planted flowers in their school colors -purple pansies and gold marigolds. This is the second year for their vegetable garden on the school grounds. But Kindercottage has had a long history of gardening thanks to

a neighbor, Mrs. Mamie Clayborne Bolden. In years past, the children assisted her with the neighborhood garden across from the playground. When Mrs. Bolden passed away, Gateway Greening and University of Illinois Master Gardeners took over care of the garden which is fittingly named the Bolden Community Garden.

The Evangelical United Church of Christ in Godfrey celebrated its 50th anniversary in the current church building with a special worship service on Sunday, April 22.

Rev. Shana Johnson preached and Rev. Jerry McCaskey shared a special moment with the children to talk about the 50 years of ministry in the current church building (Rev. McCaskey is shown standing in front of the children). Many members, friends, and people who grew up in the church came to share in the celebration.





On Sun, April 22, Rev. Nancy Peebles was installed as Pastor of Zion UCC in Central City. Pictured are the pastors attending the installation service. (l to r) Rev. Kathy Lewis (Nancy's sister); Rev. Robert Tripp; Rev. Nancy Peebles; Rev. Shana Johnson; Rev. Laurie Crelly; Rev. Paula Comper (Paula's home church is Zion UCC in Central City); Rev. Louis Fluck. We welcome Rev. Peebles and her ministry in Illinois South Conference.

Retired Pastor

- Rev. David and Kathryn Riebeling, Fuels, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for the family of Sarah (Steve) Paul as they mourn her death. Sarah was the wife of Steve Paul, brother of Rev. Timothy (Rev. Janet) Darmour-Paul who is the Pastor at Grantfork United Church of Christ in Grantfork. Tim and Janet have also served on several ISC Teams throughout the years. Funeral services were last week. In lieu of any flowers or plants, the family earnestly requests memorial donations to be made to The Sarcoma Foundation of America (for much needed angiosarcoma research) or to New Bethel United Methodist Church. Click [here](#) to view the complete obituary. Cards may be sent to Revs. Tim and Janet Darmour-Paul at 205 S Locust St, Highland, IL 62249.

- Please pray for the family of Carmen Buescher as they mourn her death. Carmen was the mother of Karen (Gary) Holtgrewe, members of St. Peter's UCC, Stone Church. Karen is the chair of Conference Gatherings Team and has recently served as ISC Secretary. Gary has served on Finance Ministry for several years and as ISC Treasurer. Visitation will be Saturday, April 28 from 1-3 pm at Campagna Funeral Home in Okawville followed by worship/celebration of life service at 3 pm. Click [here](#) for the full obituary. Cards may be sent to Karen and Gary Holtgrewe, 4586 Co Hwy 6, Okawville IL 62271.

- Keep Kyle Nuetzel (24) in your prayers as he recovers from a serious car accident and is currently in a rehabilitation hospital in Chicago. 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.



Welcome to Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, who has been called as Pastor for St. Paul UCC in Belleville. She is currently the pastor of St. Paul UCC in Cincinnati, Ohio and begins her call in Belleville on July 8. Prior to ministry, Torigian worked in fundraising and marketing for nonprofits as her previous career. She graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in 2010, Fontbonne University in 1995 and is a graduate of Belleville West High School. Torigian is the author of a number of articles on the Huffington Post Religion page including "Between Childless and Childfree," a reflection for Mother's Day. Torigian has also written various pieces for the United Church of Christ including for the New Sacred blog, the worship service for General Synod in 2015, and the UCC Daily Devotional. Her essay "Always the Pastor, Never the Bride" was published in the book *There's a Woman in the Pulpit* and her essay "Worshiping in the Gaps: Developing Unique Worship Services" in the book *Sacred Habits: Rise of the Creative Clergy*. She has also written pieces for the 2017 book *A Child Laughs*. Torigian regularly posts her musings on current events, justice issues, pop culture, and theology at www.michelletorigian.com. Welcome to Illinois South Conference, Rev. Torigian.

ATTN: College Grads - Age 30

Global Ministries is offering a unique experience for young people to serve as a Global Mission Intern.

Global Mission Interns serve one to three years in a country where Global Ministries works. Placements match your gifts as a candidate and they vary from working with youth in crisis, addressing poverty, fighting for reconciliation, to supporting children.

Qualifications?

- Be a member of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and have recently graduated or are about to graduate from college,
- Be willing to receive the gifts of our partners as well as to share your gifts in an intentional process of service

Through the experience, you gain an understanding of your call to mission and learn in new and exciting ways from our partners. If you know someone who is interested, please ask them to fill out the application directly on our [website](#) and return it to the Mission Personnel Office by April 30 or email with more questions to Cathy Nichols at cnichols@dom.disciples.org.



The Ecuador Partnership Committee and FEDICE invite you to an Evening with Blanca Puma Martinez, the executive director of FEDICE. On Fri, April 27 at 6 pm, Blanca and Luis will be at a potluck dinner/discussion at Church of the Good Shepherd, 515 S Orchard, Carbondale (one block south of Subway on Route 13). This will be a fun and educational evening. This event is free and open to the public. Donations for FEDICE will be accepted to support their programs. Bring a covered dish. They are a whole earth church and especially welcome vegetarian dishes. Contact 618-559-1587.

On Thurs, May 3 at 7 pm at Marine UCC, Blanca and Luis will tell you about the FEDICE program and its ongoing battle to stay afloat. She will speak starting at 7 pm, followed by discussion. FEDICE's mission is to empower communities in Ecuador through holistic, sustainable, and dignified development. To find out more about FEDICE, click [here](#) or [here](#) for a flyer to share with your congregation and friends.

Charles area.

SHANA'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 29

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

May 6

Worship at the Art of Transitional Ministry Conference

May 13

Preaching at the 60th Anniversary celebration at Church of the Good Shepherd, Carbondale

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.



Small Refrigerator which is perfect for a college dorm room available on a first-come-first-served basis. Free for the taking or a donation can be made to ISC Friends of the Conference. Approximately 18" W x 18" D x 26" H. Pick up at the Highland ISC office, 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL on M-F from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Call 618-654-2125 to be sure it is still available or to claim your frig!!



Saturday May 12th - 9:00 - Noon

This springtime event, rich in tradition, takes place in the beautiful countryside surrounding Maeystown, Illinois. Walkers or runners can choose between a 2 or 5 mile course. A Hike & Bike t-shirt and hearty lunch are included in your registration fee - the fun & fellowship are free! All proceeds benefit Hoyleton's Summer Program. Youth are able to attend museums, go fishing, swimming and attend Hoyleton Day Camp at DuBois Center thanks to generous supporters. Please join us in Maeystown as we continue Building Stronger Communities One Child at a Time. Pre-registration is suggested. Can't attend - sign up as a "Spirit Walker", receive a t-shirt and show your support! Register [online](#). For more information contact: Dave Henerfauth at 618-935-2354 or spiritbydesignstl@gmail.com.



DuBois Center News

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



MEET our SUMMER STAFF!

Welcome Kurtwynn Trompeter from Johannesburg, South Africa to our 2018 summer staff team. Kurtwynn will be serving as a Counselor/Activity Specialist and hopes to gain even more experience and new tools for youth work. Kurtwynn wrote, "My career goal is to open a summer camp for underprivileged children in South Africa of different ages." Kurtwynn has a variety of applicable experience. He has taught and coached football (soccer), assisted in a day care center and with the youth group at his church, and babysat for family and friends. One of his most significant learning experiences came while working with a 9-year old with Down Syndrome. When asked about a favorite memory of the "outdoors" from his youth, Kurtwynn shared enthusiastically about an educational camp he was invited to attend while in high school. During the camp they visited an underwater marine exhibit where they learned about different sea animals and about the evolution of life underwater. The camp definitely made a lasting impression. In his free time, Kurtwynn enjoys the arts - making music, drawing and painting. He

enjoys staying fit by taking part in soccer tournaments and fitness competitions. Road trips and outings with family and friends are also favorites. During a two-week visit to Mozambique, he was amazed by the beach, loved the HUGE prawns, and saw first-hand how people live in other parts of the world. It was a humbling experience. His "favourite" foods include creamy pastas and spicy prawns; he has a sweet tooth for chocolate and caramel cake. Welcome Kurtwynn!



BLOCK PARTY! Sunday, May 6

We're having a Block Party in the Rustic Village and your middle and high school youth groups are invited! Join DuBois Center staff and volunteers for an afternoon of fun, food, games, contests and music.

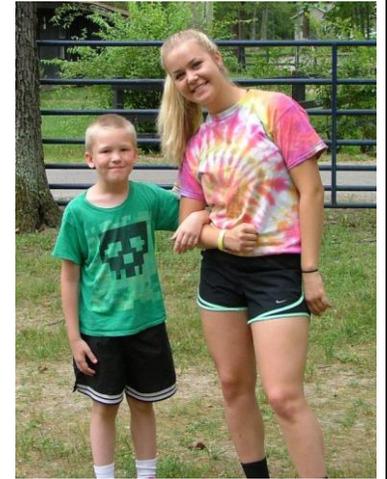
One of the best parts - IT'S FREE. We'll roast hot dogs and make s'mores, meet some of the horses, and explore the Rustic Village. Whether you are a DuBois Center camper or not, you're invited! Load up right after church, grab some lunch and head to camp. We'll be on the move from 1-4:30 pm, but arrive when you can. Youth must be accompanied by adult chaperones or parents. RSVP by Monday, April 30 - we need to stock the coolers and send you permission forms. For more information or to RSVP, check out this [flyer](#) or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



Counselors in Training (CIT)

June 24-29

CIT is a great opportunity for young people who are interested in developing their leadership skills, working with younger children, and having a great time at DuBois Center! The program functions much like a "lab school" with discussion, training, practice and evaluation sessions. Skills gained will help participants grow as positive Christian leaders, manage problematic behavior, create a safe, fun environment, and teach basic camp skills. CIT is designed for youth who have completed grades 10-12. Previous camp experience is NOT required. **NOTE:** A special application is required - in addition to the Camp Registration Form. The CIT application packet is available [online](#) or by contacting DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. For more information, check out this [flyer](#).



WANTED:



Summer Barn Coordinator



HELP PROMOTE DuBois Center Online

An easy way to help spread the word about DuBois Center is to put links to our website and Facebook page on your church's website. The links are easy to remember - DuBoisCenter.org and FaceBook.com/DuBoisCenter. If you are Facebook savvy, another easy way to spread the word is to share our posts. This helps to ensure your church members know what is happening at DuBois Center. You can also encourage your members to like and follow our Facebook page (link above) as well as doing so personally and from your church's Facebook page. A special thanks to **Christ UCC - Dupo**, **St. Peter's UCC - Okawville** and **St. Peter's UCC - Stone Church** for sharing recent posts!

SUMMER JOBS APPLY NOW!

Is this the year for more than just another summer job? DuBois Center is searching for fun-loving and child-focused individuals with a heart for ministry to serve on our summer staff. Amazing memories + resume building skills = a summer to remember. Minimum Qualifications: age 18 and a high school graduate. Check out this Summer of Service [flyer](#) and consider whether serving outdoors with a dynamic team might be just the opportunity for you. Lifeguard certification is a plus for all positions.



Questions? Contact Shirley at shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Application packets are available [online](#) or can be sent by email or mail.



HORSE CAMPS - Ready to Ride?

Our Horse Camps are filling quickly, but there are still great options for most age groups. If the weather cooperates, horse campers have the option to ride each day! They spend more time with the ponies, but still have time for other camp favorites such as swimming, 9-Square and crafts. Some mornings, they're up and at 'em long before chow time - the horses need to be fed and groomed before breakfast. Some evenings, untacking, feeding and barn chores come before evening games. Younger campers can hop aboard the **Pony Express** for an introduction to horse camp. Older campers can choose from a variety of sessions. Ready to register online? Click [here](#). For more information, pick up a camp brochure in your church office or check out the [brochure](#) online. Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-

2202 to have one sent to you.

PONY EXPRESS (completed grades 4-6)
July 22-25

HORSIN' AROUND (completed grades 5-7)
June 10-15, July 8-13, July 15-20

SADDLE 'EM UP (completed grades 7-9)
June 24-29, July 15-20

WRANGLERS (completed grades 8-12)
June 17-22



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



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, Age Smart Community Resources and Hospice of Southern Illinois.

St. John's Community Care will offer Savvy Caregiver Training sessions several times through 2018 using a curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota. This training provides tools to family members who are caring for an individual with dementia/memory loss who is living at home, either alone or with family. This series of 6 two-hour sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings on May 1, 8, 15, 22 at Fairview Heights Community Room, 10025 Bunkum Road, Fairview Heights, IL 62208. To register or for more information, call 618-344-5008.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Be Good Stewards of Your Church's Finances!

Early Bird registration for the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event is \$300/per person through May 1. Register NOW!!

The Great Lakes Regional Youth Event (GLRYE) on July 5 - 8, 2018 at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst (Chicago), Illinois for youth who have finished 6th grade through those who have just finished 12th grade.

Rev. R.J. Morgan, Pastor at Zoar UCC New Hanover, has agreed to be the group coordinator. There have been some discussions about riding the train to Chicago rather than drive or take a bus. Please let us know 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 GLRYE Facebook page and keep updated on plans, and click [here](#) to register youth from your church. If your group cannot pay by credit card, contact Lisa Hart at glrye18reg@gmail.com.

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network presents UCC W.I.S.E. Mental Health Conference on Friday, May 4 at St. Paul UCC in Downer's Grove (Chicago), Illinois from 8 am - 5 pm. W.I.S.E. stands for Welcoming-Inclusive-Supportive-Engaged

At this conference, you will:

- * Hear stories by persons who have been affected by mental health issues;
- * Receive practical steps to engage in a mental health ministry in our congregations;
- * Be introduced to the WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Covenant for congregations for mental health; and
- * Worship together, share together, and meet new people.

Click [here](#) for more information or [here](#) to register.

Region 5

Marine UCC 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](#).

Region 8

St. John UCC in New Athens, will hold an all-you-can-eat chicken dinner on Sun, May 6 from 11 am until 2 pm. The menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned green beans, corn, slaw, water, tea, coffee, and dessert. Adults \$10; Children 2-12 years \$5. Carry out and drive through service are both available. For more information, contact the church office at 618-475-2947 or stjohnucc@att.net.

Region 9

The Dixie Melody Boys, from Kinston, North Carolina, will be at Christ UCC in Belleville on Fri, April 27 at 7 pm. After 50 years, the group has found that God continues to bless the hard work of His faithful servants. With Ed O' Neal singing bass, Josh Garner at lead and newcomers, Willie Sawrey and Jerry Skaggs, baritone and tenor respectively, the Dixie Melody Boys strive to present the very best in quartet music to glorify the Savior and uplift the sinner and saint, alike. All are welcome.

Region 9

Concordia UCC in Belleville will host a Chicken dinner and Strawberry festival on Sun, June 3 from 11 am - 3 pm. Fried Chicken (fried in peanut oil) with all the 'fixins'. Dine-in or Carry-out. Quilt Raffle Chances: \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5. Bake Sale. Adults \$11; Children 6-12 years \$5.50; Children 5 and under Free. Contact 618-476-3377.