

Weekly Connection

For the Week of May 13 - May 19, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

Who Will You Listen To?

"Who will you be listening to this week?" the presenter of this week-long continuing- education event on transitional ministry asked our group at 9 pm after an already long day of lectures, small group discussions and one-on-one conversations. "It's not a rhetorical question," he pressed on. "You will be listening to a lot of us standing up here speaking. You will be listening to your peers and colleagues. And you will be listening to yourself speaking your truths aloud and inwardly. However, there is one voice that we challenge you to carve out time to listen to..." Of course, we all knew immediately the voice to which he was referring.



On the drive home tonight, I thought about the question. Perhaps it is a question we should each ask ourselves each week as a challenge and invitation to seek the voice and presence of the holy. "Who will I be listening to this week?"

In a given week, think of all the things that we listen to. Consider all the voices that cry out for our attention. Ponder the sounds and sound-bytes that distract us. Too often the cacophony of this world is so loud that it is difficult to clear out the noise in order to hear ourselves think, let alone to hear the voice of God speaking to us.

There is a story in the nineteenth chapter of 1 Kings in which Elijah is struggling to make sense of all the inner and outer voices that surround him. Voices of fear, anxiety, insecurity, and doubt. He retreats to Mount Horeb perhaps hoping to find some relief from all that he had been listening to and to give his mind, body and spirit rest. An angel of the Lord appears to him and finally asks, "*What are you doing here, Elijah?*" (verse 9) To which Elijah explains that he is in fear of his life and is waiting for a word and promise from the Lord.

As verse 11-12 explains, "*Then the Lord said to Elijah, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.*"

The phrase from verse 12 "gentle whisper" is a translation of the Hebrew phrase Qol dmamah daqah. The best translation of the Hebrew is not a "gentle whisper" or a "small still voice," but rather the "voice of silence." It is in the silence that Elijah discovers the voice of God and chooses to listen. I believe he is able to listen to God when he finally quiets the other voices that had been competing in his mind for the most attention.

I believe the same can be true of us. Too often, we expect to hear the voice of God in bold, loud, and dramatic ways...like the strength of a powerful wind, the force of an earthquake or an all-consuming fire. Yet, the truth is, sometimes we can only hear God's voice in the "dmamah", in the silence.

WHO will you be listening to this week? I invite you, as I too am challenged, to try to listen to the voice of God. Try to clear some time in your routines and schedules to clear away the distraction and to quiet the voices all around you. Quiet your heart, your mind, and your spirit, and I believe you, like Elijah, will hear the voice of God speaking to you and offering you wisdom, guidance, and peace.

May it be so in your life.

Blessings,
Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Important Links

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[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

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[Emmaus Homes](#)

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[Neighborhood Houses](#)

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[St. John's Community Care](#)

[St. Paul's Home](#)

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Pray for...

**Prayer list for
May 13-19, 2018
Churches & Pastors**

- DuQuoin St. John's UCC
- East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith, Pastor Norma Patterson

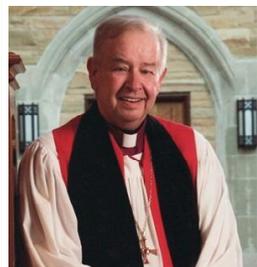
SHANA'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.



Eden Walker Leadership Institute presents the Langenberg Leadership Forum: Leadership for the Common Good entitled *The Art of Faithful Leadership: Connecting Behavior to Belief* on Tuesday, May 22 from 7:30 am - 9 am at Eden Theological Seminary, Schroer Commons, 475 E Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, Missouri. A complementary light breakfast is provided. Join Bishop Keith Whitmore and a group of local leaders for a breakfast discussion on the connection between work life and

faith life. Improve the ways you include God, faith and prayer in your important business decisions. Improve your work as a faithful leader in ways that show your co-workers, clients or competitors the connection between what you profess and how you behave. Is the "workplace you" and the "religious you" the same? Registration is required to 314-918-2546 or leadership@eden.edu. Click [here](#) to share a flyer with your friends and congregations.

Boundary Training 2018

In order to maintain ministerial standing in the Illinois South Conference, authorized ministers are required to receive Boundary Awareness Training every three years. Boundary Training is based on the curriculum from Faith Trust Institute. If you are unsure about when you are due to re-qualify, please check with the Conference Office at 618-654-2125 or cpursell@iscucc.org.

COST: \$20 covers food and materials for ISC pastors; \$30 for non-ISC pastors

Healthy Boundaries 201 (Registration Deadline Tues, May 15)

Date: Tuesday, May 22

Time: 8:30 Registration; 9:00 start, conclude by 2 pm

Facilitator: Rev. Shana Johnson

Location: ISC Conference Office, Highland, IL

Healthy Boundaries 201 (Registration Deadline Tues, Sept 4)

Date: Tuesday, September 11

Time: 8:30 Registration; 9:00 start, conclude by 2 pm

Facilitator: Rev. Shana Johnson

Location: ISC Conference Office, Highland, IL

Boundaries for Retired Clergy(Registration Deadline Tues, June 4)

Date: Tuesday, June 12

Time: 8:30 Registration; 9:00 start, conclude by noon

Facilitator: TBD

Location: ISC Conference Office, Highland, IL

Boundaries for Retired Clergy(Registration Deadline Tues, Nov 6)

Date: Tuesday, November 13

Time: 8:30 Registration; 9:00 start, conclude by noon

Facilitator: TBD

Location: ISC Conference Office, Highland, IL

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Charles Preston & Rev. Karla Frost, Granite City, IL

People with Life Concerns

- 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. Charles area.

- Pray for Pastor Cherie (Michael) Stolze as she deals with pain from an accident. Pastor Stolze is the pastor for St. Peter's UCC Stone Church and St. Paul UCC in Okawville. Cards may be sent to her at 12023 Lake Meade Dr, St. Louis, MO 63146.

- Pray for Rich (Joyce) Gusewelle as he deals with some health issues. Rich and Joyce are members of St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville and Joyce is a member of the ISC Conference Gatherings Team. Cards may be sent to 5238 N State Rt 157, Edwardsville, IL 62025.



Mom

There is nothing my mom can't do.
Give me an ear, and I'll list them for you.
She stoked the furnace. Cleaned cinders too.
She mended my clothes and shined my shoes.
Cooking turkey and dressing for her was a snap.
Then she did the dishes while some of us napped.
She went to auctions and found a good deal

On cradles and lamps and fishing reels.

In her jeans she looked real cute,
Yet went to work in a business suit.
She worked long hours and traveled far,
Yet, I know she loves us wherever we are.

Even though all of us made mistakes,
She stood by us, guiding us through our fates.
Sometimes, I think she's an unending well
That loved us every time we fell.

She never gave up and labeled us bad.
She understood all the trials we've had.
Sometimes, it was hard to understand
How she knew just when to hold my hand.

Her heart must be larger than the earth,
For more love pours out with every birth.
Although she has love for family and friends,
I know she keeps loving me again and again.

--Lynnette Schuepbach
© 1993

Happy Mother's Day!!

DuBois Center News

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



MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome Bailey Reichert to our 2018 summer staff team! Though this will be Bailey's first summer on staff, she is no stranger to DuBois Center. Bailey attended summer camp and Conference youth events regularly while growing up. The past two summers, she volunteered for multiple weeks when conflicts prevented her from serving for the full summer. She is "so excited to finally be on staff," and will be joining us as a Counselor/Activity Specialist. Bailey's favorite thing about camp is "watching her campers go out of their comfort zones and try new things." Her home base is Columbia, Illinois where she is active at St. Paul UCC. She attends Illinois Wesleyan University, and is working on a degree in Biology with a minor in Psychology. Bailey's goal is to become a Physician's Assistant. She is currently a Teaching Assistant and grader for General Chemistry. Bailey thoroughly enjoys acting and dancing, and has been seen off/off Broadway in a number of productions. A dancer for many years, she has also taught classes in jazz, ballet and tap. Coffee is Bailey's beverage of choice, and this past year she worked as a barista at the university's coffee shop. When asked about her favorite movie, Bailey replied, "Anything Disney, especially Peter Pan!" Grey's Anatomy, Once Upon a Time and The Office are some of the shows Bailey tries to catch in her nonexistent free time. Her favorite food is chocolate and she loves the smell of citrus fruit. Welcome Bailey!



The Happy Quilters of St. John United Church of Christ display the quilt to be raffled off at the annual quilt show. The colorful cover is called "We All Scream For Ice Cream." The material for the ice cream truck border was special ordered just for this quilt. Displaying the quilt are: (L-R) Marion Rud, Beth Zerkle, Carol Bruce, Kay Ostrom, Dorothy Sudduth, Nancy Groff, Michelle Bruce, and Lou-Ann Schaefer. (Picture reprinted from *The HERALD* in Mascoutah.)

THANKS to the Happy Quilters and St. John UCC, Mascoutah

The Happy Quilters of St. John UCC in Mascoutah have done it once again! This year their efforts even made the local paper. Each year this group creates a beautiful kid-friendly quilt to celebrate and raise funds for DuBois Center. But that's just the beginning! Then teams of quilters hit the road and visit churches throughout the Conference on Sunday mornings bringing goodwill and selling quilt tickets. "We All Scream for Ice Cream" is the name of this colorful work of art, and the border actually features ice cream trucks. Adorable! This year ticket sales raised \$1,700. St. John UCC matched this amount dollar for dollar, bringing the total donation to \$3,400 - designated specifically for the enhancement of our summer camp program. Thanks so much to the Happy Quilters for all their hard

work and to all the members of St. John UCC for their support. Thanks also to the following churches for hosting the traveling quilt: Grantfork UCC Grantfork; St John UCC Trenton; St. Paul UCC Lebanon; St Peter's UCC Okawville; and Zion UCC New Baden. The winning ticket was drawn at the conclusion of St. John's Annual Quilt Show, on April 7. The lucky winner was John Hinkle of Mascoutah.



CAMPS for YOUNGER YOUTH Completing Grades 5-9

Whether your camper prefers the Main Camp cottages or the Rustic Village cabins, there are great options on both

sides of the lake. Hang out with the ponies, make a big splash, enjoy a "classic" camp, or try roughin' it.

For details, pick up a brochure in your church office, click [here](#) for the online version or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

If you are ready to register click [here](#). Or go to DuBois Center [website](#). Don't delay; some of these sessions are nearly full!

Session &

Grades Completed Dates

Horsin' Around (5-7)	6/10-15, 7/8-13, 7/15-20
Splash! (5-7)	7/22-25
Base Camp (5-8)	7/15-20
Trekkin' It (5-8)	6/10-15, 7/8-13
Outlander (6-9)	6/24-29, 7/15-20
Saddle 'Em Up (7-9)	6/24-29, 7/15-20



Why International Staff?

Because they're great! They provide a fresh perspective and are eager to experience life in the United States. Each summer, DuBois Center recruits 4-6 international staff members through camp-specific recruiting agencies and Eden Theological Seminary. This summer we are welcoming young people from Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and South Africa. With accents that make us smile, diverse vocabularies and stories from home, it's easy to see why our international staffers are much beloved by campers and American staff alike. We appreciate the perspectives they bring, the games and songs they teach us, and the unique opportunities they provide for our campers. The cultural exchange they facilitate is educational and, at times, entertaining - a favorite "game" is to check for reactions to American breakfast staples such as coffee cake or biscuits and gravy! Please keep Alice, Hayley, Jack, Kurtwynn and Troy in your thoughts and prayers as they make the long trek from their home countries to southern Illinois!



Volunteer NURSES Needed - Spend 3-6 Days at DuBois Center

Share your skills and make a difference! Camp Nurses, most of whom are RNs, play a key role in providing safe and fun experiences during DuBois Center summer camps. It can be a very rewarding opportunity for ministry. Camp nurses review camper medical forms, conduct health screenings, administer medications, and provide first aid, basic medical treatment and extra TLC for homesick campers. The nurse's living quarters are air-conditioned, and it's not all work and no play. There is often time to sit back and read a good book, take a hike or dip your toes in the lake. For more information about this ministry opportunity, contact Shirley at 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org.



Registration for the 4th Annual Rainbow Camp Is Open!

Rainbow Camp is a day filled with activities and fun, where everyone is recognized as a child of God. Come play in the water, take aim with archery, try your hand at crafts, or just take in the outdoors from horseback or pontoon. We have activities for all ages. We will gather on Sat, Aug 18 from 9 am to 7 pm, at DuBois Center. Rainbow Camp is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & queer singles, couples and families. Straight allies are welcome too. If there are at least 15 people interested, we can stay Friday night as a group at Hickory Lodge. If you want to

register for just the day, select Rainbow Camp. If you want to stay Friday night and attend camp the next day, select Rainbow Camp Overnight. Register now to get the early bird rates. See this [flyer](#) for more details. Click [here](#) if you're ready to register. Got questions? Contact ISC Pride at iscpride@iscucc.org.

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!



St. John's Community Care invites all ages to join them in celebrating Older Americans Month Celebration on May 30 at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville at 11 am. They want to fill the seats (children with parents, grandchildren with grandparents etc.) to show our love and support for those who are aging! A short church service will be followed with a lovely free luncheon for everyone who attends, and then of course a little musical entertainment by the Chris & Charlie Show. Food, fellowship, and fun. Please bring a guest! RSVP to 618-344-5008 by May 21. Visit St. John's Community Care blog post [here](#). Please share this [flyer](#) with your congregations and/or family.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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.



Summer is all about fun, help us raise money for the youth at Hoyleton so they can get out and enjoy the sun!

Region 3

The Evening Circle from St John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will be having their annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on Thurs, June 21 at 11:30 am in Faith Hall. The event features a variety of homemade salads made by our ladies plus a display of summer clothes from Dillards using our own models. The \$12-ticket may be purchased through Judy Brickey at 618-345-4889 or through Amy at 618-344-2526. Tickets will not be sold at the door that day. Any questions may be directed to Vicki Donovan at 618-344-6809.

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.

VBS - June

June 18 - 22; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Belleville Concordia UCC; *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.*
June 18 - 22; Maeystown St. John UCC;
June 18 - 22; 9 am - 11:30 am; Marissa Friedens UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*
June 24 - 28; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm; Alhambra Salem UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*
June 25 - 29; 8:45 am - 12 pm; Mascoutah St. John UCC (in cooperation with St. John, Holy Childhood, and St. Martin of Tours Lutheran Churches); *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.*
June 25 - 29; 9 am - 12 pm; Dupo Christ UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

Region 5

St. Jacob UCC will hold its Strawberry Festival on Sun, May 20 from 10 am - 3 pm at the St. Jacob Township Park. Music, crafters, jump houses, children's entertainment, berries, bike ride. Brats, hot dogs, chicken kabobs and strawberry desserts available for lunch. Contact the church at 618-644-2142.

VBS - June

Mondays in June (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th); 9 am - 11:30 am; Trenton St. John UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*
June 4 - 8; 8:30 am - 11:30 am; Valmeyer St. John UCC; *Splash Canyon.*
June 4 - 8; 9 am - 12 pm; Columbia St. Paul UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*
June 4 - 8; 9 am - 11:15 am; Highland Evangelical UCC; *Moose on the Loose.*

VBS - July

July 8 - 12; 6 pm - 8 pm; Granite City St. John UCC; *Game On.*
July 9 - 13; 9 am - 12 pm; Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC; *Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity.*
July 15 - 19; 6 pm - 8 pm; Stone Church St. Peter's UCC & Plum Hill St. John's UCC are presenting cooperatively at Stone Church St. Peter's UCC;

Region 7

Friedens United Church of Christ in Irvington will host an open house on May 19, from 10 am - 6:30 pm to

June 4 - 8; 9 am - 11:30 am; Fieldon UCC; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God.*

accommodate those who would like a tour of our new addition/ renovation at 307 S Third Street, Irvington IL. For more information, call 618-249-8445.



June 8 - 12; 6 pm - 8:30 pm (Dinner served to all members of the family at 5 pm.); Troy Friedens UCC Fellowship Hall; *Rolling River Rampage*.

June 11 - 15; 9 am - 11:30 am; Staunton St. Paul UCC; *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*.

June 11 - 15; 8:30 am - 11 am; Okawville St. Peter's UCC; *Rolling River Rampage*.

Embracing the Fruits of the Spirit Around the World.

July 21; 9 am - 4 pm; Belleville St. Paul UCC; *Rolling River Rampage*.

July 23 - 27; 9 am - 11:30 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Rolling River Rampage*.

July 29 - August 2; 6 pm - 9 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC; *Rolling River Rampage*.

July 30 - August 3; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm; New Athens St. John UCC, *Rolling River Rampage*.