

Weekly Connection

For the Week of May 20 - May 26, 2018
 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Congratulations to Andrew Wilson who recently received the Honor Graduate Fellowship Award from Eden Seminary. This award is given to the graduating Master-level student who, in the judgment of the faculty "has the greatest academic promise and potential for further graduate study in theology." He also received a monetary award for the work he has done in CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education.)

Andrew is currently a locally licensed pastor serving St. Peter's Evangelical UCC in Granite City and will be graduating from Eden on May 18.



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](#)

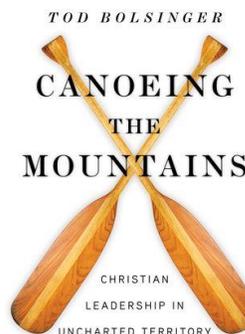


Being Church in Uncharted Territory Annual Meeting Warm-Up Event

Friday, October 26, 2018
St. John Evangelical UCC - Collinsville
2 pm - 6 pm

Explorers Lewis and Clark had to adapt. While they had prepared to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, instead they found themselves in the Rocky Mountains. You, too, may feel that you are leading in a cultural context you were not expecting. You may even feel that your training holds you back more often than it carries you along. Drawing from his extensive experience as a pastor and consultant, Tod Bolsinger

brings decades of expertise in guiding churches and organizations through uncharted territory. He offers a combination of illuminating insights and practical tools to help you re-imagine what effective leadership looks like in our rapidly changing world. If you're going to scale the mountains of ministry, you need to leave behind canoes and find new navigational tools. This workshop will set you on the right course to lead with confidence and courage. Click [here](#) for a flyer and registration form to post in your church and share with your congregations. Click [here](#) to register online.



Call for Delegates for the 54th Annual Meeting of Illinois South Conference

October 27, 2018
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Knights of Columbus/Collins Club, Collinsville, Illinois
This is the official notice to gather your Delegates!

It is important to identify your church's Lay Delegates as soon as possible so that they will receive all of the information prior to the meeting and can plan accordingly. Email addresses will be important for us to communicate with them.

These Delegates will have voting rights:

- ♥ Lay Delegates from local churches
- ♥ All authorized ministers of the Conference
- ♥ Elected members of the Conference Council

You will need the following material:

- ♥ Delegate Selection [Report](#) for your Church.
- ♥ Delegate information from the ISC [Bylaws](#), showing the number of



Pray for...

Prayer list for **May 20-26, 2018** **Churches & Pastors**

- Edwardsville Eden Church,
 Rev. John (Jami) Roberts
- Edwardsville St. Paul UCC,
 Rev. Diane Grohmann

Delegates allowed per church.

- ♥ A list of churches and the [number](#) of delegates per church.
- ♥ Conference Delegate Role and [Responsibilities](#) (please copy & distribute to your Delegates).
- ♥ Guidelines to [resolutions](#)

Pre-annual meeting gatherings for the purpose of Delegate orientation, budget recommendations and other annual meeting matters. Delegates should plan to attend one of these locations. Click [here](#) for flyer.

Thurs, Sept 13 - (Regions 2-8-9) Christ UCC, Dupo

7 pm - 9 pm

Sun, Sept 16 - (Regions 1-6-7) St. Peter's UCC, Murphysboro

3 pm - 5 pm

Sun, Sept 23 - (Regions 3, 4, 5) Grantfork UCC, Grantfork

3 pm - 5 pm

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Russell and Doris Miller, Metropolis, 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.

- Please pray for the family of Rev. Kenneth (Norma) Kramer as they mourn his passing early this morning. He died peacefully with Norma at his side. His standing was currently in the Illinois Conference, while serving the Salem Evangelical United Church of Christ in Quincy, Illinois, but for many years he served in Illinois South Conference and as interim pastor at several churches in other conferences. He and Norma had been members of Irvington Friedens UCC. His father was Pastor at Zion UCC in Addieville. Arrangements are pending. We will send more information as it become available.



SAVE THE DATE

The ISC Outdoor Ministries Team (OMT) announces the 42nd annual Fall Festival at DuBois Center on Sunday, October 7th from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Many of the traditional favorites for this autumn fund-raiser will continue to be featured, if enough supervisors and volunteers come forward. We hope many will be able to participate as a volunteer, as a donor of food, items, or money, as a crafter, a musician, and/or a buyer. Your church will receive more information this summer about the Fall Festival and updates will be printed periodically in the *Weekly Connection*. For more information,

please contact Norma Borgmann (OMT Chairperson) at 618-533-1658 (H) or 618-292-4617 (C) or nborgmann1658@charter.net. We also ask you to assist with promoting the 2018 Fall Festival. Thank you in advance.

SHANA'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 3

Preaching at Zion UCC in Addieville and St. John's UCC in Johannisberg in honor of Rev. Bill Groennert's 50th anniversary of ordination.

June 10

Preaching at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon to celebrate Rev. Dr. Donald Wagner's 25th anniversary as Pastor and Teacher of St. Paul UCC and 30th anniversary of ordination.

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.

The 2018 Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for September 14-15, 2018. The event takes place at beautiful DuBois Center. It starts at 6:30 on Friday evening and ends at 8:00 on Saturday evening.

The theme for this year's retreat is "**Who is Jesus' Neighbor?**". Our facilitator, Rev. John Holst-Pastor at Zion UCC in Marion, will work with the youth and chaperones to consider one of the themes, Love of Neighbor, which is one component of the UCC's "3 Great Loves" campaign. The retreat will offer time to delve into the question of Who is Jesus' Neighbor? through fun & interactive small group conversations, games, and fellowship.

The retreat is designed as a supplement to your church's confirmation program and it offers a unique opportunity for confirmation classes from across the Conference to



bond within and between their groups. If this sounds of interest to your confirmands/leaders, then please make sure to include this retreat in your upcoming confirmation paperwork. Please note that we need space reservations by August 13 and the registration paperwork by August 31. So, use your summer months to encourage confirmands to join you on this retreat. Click [here](#) for the complete packet of information and registration forms.

Urgent Help Needed for Puerto Rico

Disaster Ministries is asking for work teams in response to 2017 hurricanes starting on June 1, 2018. You can help.

- Organize a group of up to 15 volunteers and come ready to work and accompany the people of Puerto Rico. (Minimum age 16 years old.)
 - Help to clean up and repair homes and church properties.
 - Anticipated work sites will be in the municipalities of Toa Baja, Ciales, and Humacao.
- To schedule your group, email uccdisaster.puertorico@gmail.com.



Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches (& parents & teens & bosses & teachers & workers & committee members & pastors & everybody else) will be held on Sat, June 23 from 9 am - 3:30 pm at St. Paul UCC in Waterloo. Presented by Rev. Mike Southcombe, ISC Conflict Mediation Team. Study and workshop resources from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

You will learn:

- What personality "type" you are
- What stress does to your personality
- How to recognize and communicate with other personality types
- How to talk so that others will listen
- How to listen to others and change the way they talk to you
- How to deal with conflict from a biblical, healing perspective
- Collaborative skills/Problem solving skills
- Effective Communication skills
- Effective Listening skills
- The 10 Commandments of Leading an Effective Church Meeting

Cost includes workshop materials and lunch. \$20/person or \$30/couple (shared workbook). Register by calling 618-939-7123 or email linda@stpaulonline.org.

Free Webinar from the Insurance Board

Sex Offenders in Your Congregation: Recommendations and Best Practices will be presented by Heather Kimmel on Wednesday, May 23 from 1 pm - 2 pm CST.



At the heart of every church beats the willingness to forgive and accept.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle for a church to overcome is when a convicted sex offender wants to be a member of the church.

This is not a decision to take lightly and churches may find it is a divisive decision; struggling with the role of the church and the safety of its congregants. Insurance Board recognizes that many churches face this decision on a regular basis. We believe it is good for a church to be pro-active and have these conversations before that person approaches your doors.

We have invited Heather E. Kimmel, General Counsel of the United Church of Christ, to address issues related to sex offenders in congregations, including safe conduct policies, limited access agreements, and disclosure to congregations. Click [here](#) to register.

Additional Webinars coming soon.

Unique Risks Preventing Sexual Abuse in the School Environment (Praesidium)

Wednesday, August 8, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm CST

Trending Risk Management Concerns for Churches (The Insurance Board)

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm CST



Deadline Extended - All skill levels welcome!!

Ecuador Partnership Committee of the Illinois South Conference of the UCC encourages you to participate in the July mission trip to Jama, Ecuador. The dates are July 7-16th. The group will leave from St. Louis, Missouri and arrive in Quito, Ecuador on the 7th in the evening. They are looking for at least 3+ people to complete this trip. The deadline to register has been extended! What they need are people who are passionate about mission and want to open their hearts to a family in need. All of the work on the trip will NOT be back breaking work. Physical work can be as easy or hard as is capable by the attendee. There are many other ways to help. Lee-Alison Wilson encourages interested groups to contact her for a personal conversation at

618-616-6676 or ecuadorgirl816@gmail.com.

Come join the fun. Your life will be changed. Click [here](#) for the flyer. **You will need \$2,200 and a passport valid through 1/16/2019.**

DuBois Center News

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



MEET our SUMMER STAFF

We welcome Rachel Hughes to our 2018 summer staff team! This will be Rachel's first summer on staff, but she is no stranger to DuBois Center. In addition to attending numerous Mother-Daughter Retreats and ISC youth events, Rachel was a DuBois Center camper... for years, CIT (counselor in training) and volunteer camp counselor. She has experience working with children in other settings as well. She was a mentor for kindergartners, Sunday School teacher and volunteer with Arts 'n Autism (a non-profit for children and adults



with autism). This summer Rachel will be joining us as a Counselor/Activity Specialist. She has dreamed about working at camp since she was young and is very excited to make even more amazing memories. Rachel hails from Freeburg, Illinois where she is an active member of St. Paul's UCC. She studies business at the University of Alabama, is a member of the Delta Gamma sorority, and is on an Ultimate Frisbee team. When asked about her "favorites" Rachel wrote, "I don't know if this is my favorite food, but I'm always in the mood for ice cream. My favorite smell is brown sugar/vanilla. My favorite childhood memories are definitely from camp and also from travelling. I'm a huge TV and movie fan. I could go on forever and ever, but I *think* I like comedies the best. My favorite book is Call Me by Your Name." When asked about a mentor or someone who inspires her, Rachel talked about "Krazy" her counselor for CIT. "She was just the funniest, coolest person ever. It showed me that even if I have a "grown-up" job when I'm older, I can still volunteer at camp and make an amazing impact on the campers!" (Note: Krazy's real name is Kristen Kniepkamp-Belcher. She is a high school science teacher in Alton, long-time UCC church member, and DuBois Center volunteer.) Welcome Rachel!



MISSION WEEK 2018

St. Paul UCC in Belleville has a long history of reaching out locally and around the country through mission trips. Since 2010, DuBois Center has been blessed to be their mission site on even-numbered years; on odd-numbered years they travel further afield. In 2014 they were joined by members of **Christ UCC in Duplo**, and the collaboration continues today. This year they have been joined by other friends of DuBois Center. The priority projects for this week include: constructing and installing a new boat dock, upgrading the electric in the Rustic Village cabins, removing and replacing the siding on one side of the office, building changing stalls in the Beach House, and lots and lots of painting. Work began bright and early this morning and will continue through Friday! Please pray for the work team's safety and hydration this week! Watch our [Facebook](#) page for updates throughout the week.



**Don't Delay;
Register Today!**

Summer vacation is a great time to get outside, unplug and make new friends face-to-face. Give your kids the gift of joyful, low-tech, faith-filled fun this summer! 2018 Summer Adventures at DuBois Center are filling quickly - some already have waiting lists! However, there are still lots of great options available, just don't wait too long. Pick up a brochure in your church office, click [here](#) to view the online version or contact DuBois Center to have one mailed to you - dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



**HORSE CAMPS
Ready to Ride?**

Horse Campers spend more time with the ponies, but still have time for other camp favorites such as swimming, 9-Square and crafts. If the weather cooperates, they have the option to ride each day! Some mornings, campers are up and at 'em long before chow time to feed and groom the horses before breakfast and an early morning ride. 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 ones 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](#). Or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 to have one sent to you.

PONY EXPRESS

July 22-25 (completed grades 4-6)

HORSIN' AROUND

June 10-15, July 8-13, or July 15-20

(completed grades 5-7)

SADDLE 'EM UP

June 24-29, or July 15-20 (completed grades 7-9)

WRANGLERS

June 17-22 (completed grades 8-12)



**SAVE THE DATE
Mother & Daughter Retreat
October 12-14**

Last Sunday we celebrated our mothers and all the women who nurture and support us. Let the celebration continue with DuBois Center's annual Mother & Daughter Retreat! Get away and re-energize your relationship with your daughter, mother, granddaughter, niece, aunt or other special woman or girl in your life. Enjoy a playful, faith-based weekend together, one packed with engaging activities, inspiring God times, meals without cooking and wonderful fellowship. All ages are welcome, but most activities are geared for girls and women age six and older. **SAVE THE DATE!** Registration opens July 10. Space is limited to 50.

**WELCOME TEAM
Join Us!**

June 10, 24, July 8, 15, 22

On these five Sundays, scores of UCC campers will arrive at DuBois Center eager and excited to begin their time at camp. Twelve volunteers are needed for each of these Sundays plus summer staff to ensure the check-in process runs smoothly! Volunteers assist with greeting, parking, the camp store, registration, health screenings, dock duty and people-moving. They arrive by 1:15 pm and are done by 4 pm. Please consider joining our Sunday Welcome Team on one or more check-in days. You are invited to wear a church t-shirt and show your spirit. Even consider bringing a team from your church! Let us know in advance when you can help; contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.



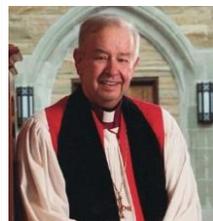
DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



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...

Thursday, May 24 will be the last spring gathering of the ISC Pastors/Spouses Fellowship at the Red Apple Restaurant in Maryville beginning at 11:30 am. We hope for good sharing with a good sized group present since this is the last get-together until September. Please RSVP to Herb & Bennie Schafale at 618-476-3925 or herbenne@wisperhome.com no later than Monday evening, May 21.



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.

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



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.



Region 2

Waterloo St. Paul UCC presents its Fine Arts Series Concert on Sun, May 20 at 2 pm featuring Gary Humphrey & Friends celebrating the Great American Songbook. There is no charge to attend. A free-will offering will be taken. 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.

VBS - June

June 18 - 22; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Belleville Concordia UCC; *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.*
June 18 - 22; 9 am - 12 pm; Maeystown St. John UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*
June 18 - 22; 9 am - 11:30 am; Marissa Friedens UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*
June 24 - 28; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm;

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 (618-345-4889) or through Amy at the office (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.

Edwardsville Eden Church presents 5Karacter Fun Run/Walk on June 2 at 9 am at the Edwardsville Township Park. Join the fun and dress up as your favorite character. Proceeds to support the Eden Youth Mission trip to Africa and African Vision of Hope. Music, snacks, family activities, and photo booth. Click [here](#) for more info.

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, children's entertainment, jump houses, crafters, berries, bike ride. Brats, hot dogs, chicken kabobs and strawberry desserts available for lunch. Contact the church at 618-644-2142.

Christ UCC in Belleville presents a Spaghetti Dinner Concert on Fri, May 18 at 6 pm featuring The Griffith Family. A free-will offering will benefit the TWIGS Summer Meal Program. All are welcome.

VBS - May

May 29 - June 1; 9 am - 12 pm; Waterloo St. Paul UCC; *Rolling River Rampage*.

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*.

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

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*.

June 18 - 22; 6 pm - 8:30 pm (Dinner served to all members of the family at 5 pm.); Troy Friedens UCC Fellowship Hall; *Rolling River Rampage*.

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*.

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 9 - 13; 6 pm - 8:20 pm; Red Bud St. Peter UCC; *Rolling River Rampage*.

July 15 - 19; 6 pm - 8 pm; Stone Church St. Peter's UCC & Plum Hill St. John's UCC are working together at Stone Church St. Peter's UCC; *Embracing the Fruits of the Spirit Around the World*.

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

July 22 - 25; 5 pm - 8:15 pm; Metropolis Zion UCC (combined with St. Paul Lutheran, St. Rose Catholic, First Christian, and Lutheran Church of the Cross); *Polar Blast*.

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*.