



November 23, 2021



There are many versions of Thanksgiving these days. The traditional family gathering for turkey and fixings dinner is one. At these gatherings, some people choose to take turns speaking of things that they are grateful for.

Others speak of the joys each person shares with their lives. Then there is Friendsgiving which gathers people unrelated by blood, but by building relationships that make them feel like family. I am thrilled to be attending both versions this year. Here, I'm sharing with you things I would say while gathered around either of these events with you... I am grateful for the beautiful designs created on my windshield by Jack Frost; for my son's offer to start my car so that I didn't have to scrape that windshield; for the last bit of colorful nature that shines right before the "big sleep" of winter; for being able to use, during the holidays, the vacation time I have left; for a weekend retreat to expand my spirit; for a thankyou note from a friend far away; for beginning a pen pal program with my friend's 10-year-old son; for the sun rising over the Ohio River. Thanksgiving blessings to you all, Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator



Prayer list for
Nov 28 - Dec 4, 2021
Churches & Pastors

-Belleville Christ UCC, Pastor Jon (Lisa) Tinge

-Belleville Concordia UCC, Rev. Joan (John) Mier

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn, Waterloo, IL

People with Life Concerns

-Pray for **Rev. Bill Causer**, as he deals with some health issues. Cards may be sent to him at 1315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

-Keep **Rev. Gus (Sue) Kuether** in your prayers as he recovers from surgery. Rev. Kuether is a retired ISC pastor and has served on many ISC teams and committees. Cards may be sent to him at 536 Pebble Brook Ln, Belleville IL 62221.

-Pray for those who are **hungry** during this time when plenty is foremost in our minds.

-Pray for the **United States** as we work towards equality and civility for all.

-Pray for the **healthcare workers** and **families dealing with COVID-19**.



Becoming a WISE Conference

In the United Church of Christ, the Mental Health Network is committed to working “to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership, and work of

congregations.” (This is the stated mission of the UCC Mental Health Network.)

What It Means to Be a WISE Conference:

WISÉ stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged. To engage in the process of becoming a WISÉ Conference, it would first enter a period of education, discernment, and decisions about how the Illinois South Conference might live out a commitment to be welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with persons who have mental health conditions/brain disorders in the life and leadership of our Conference (This includes pastors, church leaders, church members, and veterans in our churches.

A Conference-wide WISÉ team consisting of five to seven members of the ISC would be selected to help name the commitments and resourcing we could engage in to develop a WISÉ Covenant for the Conference. The WISÉ team would work with the Mental Health Network of the UCC to create a covenant and action plan. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, the delegates will vote upon adopting the presented covenant and action plan to officially become a WISÉ Conference.

How the WISE Task Force Will Be Chosen:

Applications of interested persons will be sent to and reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Illinois South Conference. It is a shared belief that the WISÉ team should consist of a wide demographic of the Conference whose participants have the passion, experience, and availability to carry out the necessary steps of the process.

Timeline of the WISE Process:

November 2021 - Applications for the WISÉ exploratory team are online and due to the Conference office by December 3.

December 2021 - The WISÉ exploratory team is selected, participants are notified and the team is announced.

January 2022 - The WISÉ exploratory team begins an intensive process of education, discernment, and planning with the help of the Mental Health Network of the United Church of Christ

Summer 2022 - The proposed WISÉ Covenant and action plan are finalized.

September 2022 - The proposed WISÉ Covenant and action plan are shared widely in the Conference.

2022 Annual Meeting - Delegates to the 2022 Annual Meeting vote on becoming a WISÉ Conference.

Beyond Annual Meeting - If the resolution passes at Annual Meeting for Illinois South Conference to become a WISÉ Conference, the real work begins.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

It is with great sadness that I announce the upcoming closure of **Cahokia Bethel UCC**. Bethel began its ministry on September 13, 1959. We will have our final worship service January 2, 2022. We have set aside December 19 as a day that we will celebrate the ministries Bethel has been involved with in recent years. We welcome our Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, and others from the Illinois South Conference to join us on that day as we celebrate the work done and partnerships formed during the years of ministry at Cahokia Bethel UCC. The final worship service on January 2 is planned as a private service reserved for the current membership at Bethel as a time for us to share stories, laugh, and grieve together as we close our doors for the final time. I have been blessed to serve at Bethel UCC. Rev. Karen Pepmeier, Pastor of Bethel UCC, Cahokia

Groundbreaking held for apartments for Immokalee farmworkers

A little more than four years after Hurricane Irma devastated much of what was already substandard housing in Immokalee, Fla., the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (IFHA) broke ground November 10 on what will become a 128 rental unit community for farmworkers and other low-income residents.

To date, contributions from across the United Church of Christ total more than \$300,000. "This project expands the United Church of Christ's presence and involvement in Immokalee," said the Rev. Alan Coe, IFHA Board member, pastor of Mayflower Congregational UCC in Naples, Fla., and UCC Florida Conference Disaster Coordinator. [Read](#) the full UCC News story.



Supporting Michigan communities in need of water, disaster recovery

Right - Michigan homeowner inspects damage from summer 2021 storms. FEMA photo

UCC Global H.O.P.E. has granted \$3,500 for water filters to help residents of **Benton Harbor, Mich.**, get through a water crisis that has gone on for more than three years. Distribution of water filters is by request of the community and is seen as a "ministry of presence" to help lay the groundwork for community support and long-term recovery.

And in Detroit, Mich., UCC Global H.O.P.E. is helping four long-term recovery groups ramp up to help survivors of widespread torrential rain and flooding in June 2021. The Rev. Roslyn Bouier, Pastor of Detroit's Trinity-St. Mark's UCC, is Chair of the Guiding Lights Long-Term Recovery Group, serving Detroit's west side. [Read more](#).

Clergy Compensation Guidelines

The 2021-2022 Clergy Compensation Guidelines are attached for your review. A letter from Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister, and the Committee on Ministry is included in the [document](#) which outlines the use of these guidelines. Please share the letter and guidelines with others in your church who could benefit from it, i.e., Search Committee, Budget Committee, Pastoral Relations Team, Personnel Committee. If you have questions, contact Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org.

DuBois Center News

Announcing our Spring 2022 Retreat Dates – Save the date!

In addition to a confirmation retreat and pastor's retreat

planned in conjunction with teams from the Illinois South Conference, we are happy to be offering the following retreats and opportunities to enjoy DuBois Center this spring. Follow along at our [website](#) for more information announced soon!

April 1 – 3, 2022 - Father-Son Retreat

April 9, 2022 and May 15, 2022 - DuBois Center Open House Events

April 15, 2022 - Stations of The Cross at DuBois – Good Friday,

April 23, 2022 - Volunteer Workday

April 29 – May 1, 2022 - Women's Retreat

May 20 – May 22, 2022 - Volunteer Retreat Weekend

We are also finalizing dates for a Spring Horse Retreat, a Green DuBois Stargazing Retreat, and a Green DuBois Nature Photography Retreat. Stay Tuned for more information on all of our exciting spring programming offerings!



DuBois 6.0 - Building Faith, Capacity, and Future Oct. 2021-Dec. 2022

DuBois Center will turn 60 in 2022, marking the year we took ownership of the land. While the first 60 years have been great, she needs your help for maintenance and expansion the future.

This soul- and faith-filled treasure is the heart of the people in Illinois South Conference.



Thousands of campers have experienced God and God's creation over the past six decades. Some found their calling to ministry there. Others found summer after summer of fun and friendship. Think of the retreats, the worship, the secrets shared and the children's laughter. So much life has occurred under the rustling leaves at DuBois Center. Now it's time for us to prepare for the next 60 years, by improving what we have and getting ready for the future.

As of this edition, we have received \$6,985 toward the total goal of \$225,290. Keep checking this [website](#) to see how the thermometer fills up. Send your donation



to make the improvements possible. It's our space to bring faith and appreciation of nature to ourselves and the next generations. [Here](#) is the information on all areas we will be updating so that you may share with your congregations, friends and past campers.



Hitz Memorial Home Tasting Bee

This year, the Hitz Home Auxiliary's Tasting "B," The Music of Christmas, will be on Fri, Dec 3, at 1 pm in the activity/dining room area of the Hitz Memorial Home. There will be tasty foods, a special program, quilt raffle, silent auction, and attendance prizes to be given away.

Auxiliary members will provide the meats and some sides. Foods that are brought for tasting by various church groups and individuals are very much appreciated. Items for the silent auction would also be welcomed. The quilt raffle also includes several gift cards. The tickets for the drawing are \$1 each or 6/\$5 and can be purchased at the door or from members of the Auxiliary in your local churches. Get a group together or come alone to enjoy laughter, good food, and fellowship for a good cause. Proceeds will benefit the activity fund for the residents.



Elmhurst University turns 150!

On Monday, December 6, 2021, alums and friends of Elmhurst University in the Metro Area will gather for a celebratory reception. This "watch party" will begin at 5 pm in the Schroer Commons of Eden Theological Seminary, 475 East Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO. 63119. At 5:30 pm, we will live stream into the campus of Elmhurst University to hear the speech from President Troy VanAken and toast the Sesquicentennial. Please join in this historic moment as we recognize Elmhurst University and its relationship with the United Church of Christ. All are invited to this blessed event! For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Chaplain of Elmhurst University, H. Scott Matheney, at hscottm@elmhurst.edu or 636-617-3025.



Creation Care the Focus of Nov. 30 Giving Tuesday campaign

by Connie Larkman

Honor the earth. It's a sacred commitment in which many United Christ of Christ congregations are immersed. [Honor the Earth](#) is also a Native-led nonprofit organization founded to raise awareness and financial support for Indigenous environmental justice. Both will benefit from this year's [Giving Tuesday](#) campaign.

The Native-led nonprofit is headed by Indigenous leader Winona LaDuke.

Care for God's creation is the UCC's 2021 focus for this giving opportunity, which this year falls on Nov. 30. The UCC plans to devote 70 percent of the funds raised to [Honor the Earth](#), led by Winona LaDuke.

The remaining 30 percent of Giving Tuesday gifts will be utilized by the [UCC Council for Climate Justice](#), a grassroots effort focused on climate education and environmental justice. The funds will be used to foster youth and young adult climate justice leadership. Read [more](#).

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: St. John's - Midway has 2 brass candelabras to donate. They have been replaced and are no longer being used. Each holds 7 taper candles. Contact their Church Office at 618-377-9288 if you are interested.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: Kimball spinet piano. Contact Salem UCC at 618-488-3215.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: Two (2) Peavey Impulse 500 Speakers. Contact Salem UCC at 618-488-3215.

Region 4

Fieldon UCC will celebrate its 155th Anniversary on Sunday, December 12 during the church service at 9 am. All are welcome to join them in the celebration. For questions, call 618-376-4641.

Region 5

Staunton St. Paul UCC Vendor/Craft Fair & Bake Sale

Vendors are wanted for the annual St. Paul UCC Vendor Fair and Bake Sale on Sat, Dec 4 from 9 am - 2 pm. Eight-foot tables are available for \$15 each. A Bake Sale and Chili/Hot dog lunch will be served during the day. Please call Pastor Debbie at 618-635-2386 to reserve a spot. This event is part of the Staunton Christmas Walk and local vendors will be having special sales, carriage rides will transport shoppers around town and activities for children will be at each stop.

On Sun, Dec 5, from 3 pm - 5 pm, Eden's Glory, an organization working to undo the horrors of sexual trafficking locally as well as nationwide, will be at Marine UCC, 111 N. Center St, Marine, IL 62061 to share the essence of their program. A successful survivor and graduate of Eden's Glory will tell her story and light refreshments will be served. The following is from their [website](#):

"Eden's Glory is a home fortifying survivors, educating communities, and working to end human trafficking all for the glory of God."

"We believe ending modern slavery is possible."

Please consider joining them on Dec 5 to learn more about this critical issue.

Troy Friedens UCC will hold its Santa Fest 2021 on Dec 4 from 11 am - 2 pm in the church parking lot. Free admissions but donations accepted. Social distancing applies.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Music Coordinator - New Baden Zion UCC

has an opening for a part-time Music Coordinator. Job duties include directing the adult choir, coordinating with organists and children's choirs, selecting and leading music for services, assisting with copyright reporting, and other related responsibilities. A degree in worship arts, music, or equivalent training is required, along with experience as a choral singer and/or director and keyboard skills. For a full job description and salary info, contact Rodney Washburn at [email](mailto:rwashburn@evucc.org).

Choir Director - Highland Evangelical UCC

is searching for a Choir Director, who will be responsible for overseeing the directing, planning, and program development of the music program of the Church. The Director serves as a resource to support, foster, and coordinate the worship life of the congregation through congregational, choral, and special music and other visual worship experiences and reports to the Senior Pastor. For more information, click [here](#). Send resume to EvUCC at BBray@evucc.org.

Media and Technology Director - St. Paul UCC, Belleville

is hiring a Media and Technology Director. This position is responsible for the church audio/visual program, video production of worship, and website and social media. This includes:

- Coordinating the audio/visual/lighting elements of our worship service broadcasts
- Developing media and technology program at St. Paul UCC
- Overseeing hardware & software needs

Go to our website stpaulucc.org for a full job description. For those interested, please send a full resume to [email](mailto:stpaulucc@evucc.org).

Communications and Technology

Coordinator - Columbia St. Paul UCC seeks to effectively communicate its work and ministry through inspired and creative leadership. They actively seek to fill this newly created role in this exciting period of growth and change. The coordinator will create, organize, plan, and implement effective communication strategies, messaging, and virtual events on behalf of the congregation in collaboration with clergy, staff, and volunteers. Pay range is \$18 - \$22 per hour depending on experience level. [Email](mailto:stpaulucc@evucc.org) a cover letter with salary requirements, resume and portfolio.

Part-Time Music Leader - Pinckneyville St Paul UCC is in search of a Part-Time Music Leader who works well with people. Music skills include the ability to play a piano and a Wick's two-manual pipe organ with pedals. Good vocal skills are a plus but not required. The church does not have a choir but occasionally has special instrumentalists and vocalists. Sunday school children will often perform a song which may or may not require support from the Music Leader. Church services are currently 10 am – 11 am on Sundays with two services on Easter and special services for Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday. Advent and Lenten services are typically rotated with two or three other churches. To apply, send resume with references to: St. Paul UCC, 205 E Jackson St., Pinckneyville, IL 62274 or stpauluccpinckneyville@gmail.com.

Youth Ministry Director - O'Fallon UCC is seeking a candidate, age 21 or older, for a part-time Youth Ministry Director position to lead Sunday morning youth Bible Study and fellowship/mission activities (2 Sundays per month). Contact the church at oucc@sbcglobal.net or 618-632-3496.

Nurse - Deaconess Nurse Ministry is looking for a nurse to work part time (9 hours per week) at Uni-Pres Kindercottage and a food pantry in Belleville. If you're interested, contact Donna at dpupillo@faithnurses.org.

Minister of Visitation - Belleville St. Paul United Church of Christ seeks a Minister of Visitation (10 hours per week). Responsibilities:

Director of Faith Formation - Belleville St. Paul UCC seeks a Director of Faith Formation (18 hrs. per week). Job responsibilities:

- Visit congregants who are hospitalized, in long-term care facilities, and homebound
- Assist with and lead funerals as needed
- Assist in worship elements

Send a resume and 3 references to [email](#).

- Plan and execute the church's education program for all ages in collaboration with the Sr. Pastor and Christian Ed. Team
- Sustain and expand the youth group
- Assist in worship elements

Send resume and 3 references to [email](#).

Facilities Coordinator and Tech Coordinator Positions - Waterloo St.

Paul UCC is taking resumes for its Facilities Coordinator and Tech Coordinator positions. Please send inquiries about the Facilities Coordinator, Tech Coordinator, or both to [email](#).

Assistant Church Organist/Musician - Grantfork UCC

is looking for a musician to play the pipe organ and/or piano for their Sunday morning traditional worship service once or twice a month. The schedule will be coordinated with the church's music director, Connie Plocher. To express an interest, contact Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul at 618-675-2595, or at [email](#).

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

So we can better serve you, here is a list of your Conference staff and who you should contact, given your church's needs:

For the work of Conference teams and committees or search and call inquiries, contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org.

For financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org.

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at lschuepbach@iscucc.org.

For DuBois Center information, contact Hayley Elliott at 618-787-2202 or director@DuBoisCenter.org.

For DuBois Center program information, contact Rylee Hodges-Stone at 618-787-2202 or program@DuBoisCenter.org.

For DuBois Center registration for upcoming events and camp sessions, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org.

To speak with the Conference Minister, contact Rev. Shana Johnson 618-882-8247 or sjohnson@iscucc.org

Inclusivity Statement for DuBois Center and Illinois South Conference of the UCC

Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.

Important Links

[Illinois South Conference](#) [Back Bay Mission](#) [CHHSM](#) [Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#) [DuBois Center](#) [Ecuador Partnership](#) [Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#) [Hitz Memorial](#) [Home](#) [Hoyleton Youth & Family](#) [LIFE Program](#) [Unleashing Potential](#)

[New Athens Home](#) [Pension Board-UCC](#) [St. John's Community Care](#) [St. Paul's Sr. Community](#)

[UCC Insurance Board](#) [Uplands Village](#) [UCC Campus Ministry](#) [Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

