

May 17, 2022



### **A Pastor's Viewpoint**

Ruthie lived in a group home near the church where I was a student pastor. Every Sunday, Ruthie sat in the front pew. She often brought along an unkempt, homeless man, whom she proudly introduced as “her boyfriend.” He generally slept through the service while Ruthie sat there grinning from ear to ear.

Every Sunday, when it came time for prayer requests, Ruthie raised her hand. “My friend Jimmy has a cold. My friend Beth has the flu. My friend Sam gets headaches.” Ruthie always brought a new list of bumps, bruises, and colds going around her group home. The whole congregation squirmed nervously in their pews as she rattled off her list. Week in and week out, these were the heart-felt concerns she wanted to share.

Then one Sunday she asked for prayers for herself because she was moving. She was leaving the nearby group home and entering another home on the south side of the city. She didn’t know if she could get back to church. She didn’t know if she would see her boyfriend again. She wanted our prayers.

I visited Ruthie after her move into her new home. She was excited to have a visitor. She proudly introduced me to the other residents. She sat me down in the kitchen and told me someone had explained the bus schedules. She thought she could catch one to church on Sunday mornings. Then she asked me if we could pray. “Sure,” I said. “That’s why I came.” But she spoke before I had another chance to open my mouth. “Dear God, thank

you for Pastor Tim, for Pastor Diana, and for our Church, and Jesus be my name.” I shifted nervously in my seat. I was the one studying at seminary how to care for people like her. I had come to pray for her.

She continued, “Thank you for the bus to take me to work and for the sunshine, and Jesus be my name. Thank you for my new home and for my new friends, and Jesus be my name.” I figured she heard me include the phrase “we ask this in Jesus’ name” in my prayers. When I pray in Jesus’ name, I’m asking that my selfish desires might give way to what Jesus wants. Ruthie clearly hadn’t understood. “And Jesus be my name.” It sounded like she was carelessly asking to be Jesus herself.

### **Prayer list for May 22-28, 2022**

#### **Church & Pastors**

-Moro St.  
John's of  
Midway, Rev.  
Lori (Wayne)  
Schafer and  
Rev. Nancy  
Brooks, Sabbatical Pastor (above)



-SIH Cancer Institute & Trauma Center, Rev. Barbara Patten

#### **Retired Pastors**

- Rev. Dr. Richard and Johann Ellerbrake, Lebanon, IL

#### **People with Life Concerns**

-Keep **Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer** in your prayers as he recovers from surgery. Cards may be sent to him at 11315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

-Pray for **Rev. Gus (Sue) Kuether** as he heals from surgery. Rev. Kuether is a retired ISC pastor who served on many ISC teams and committees. Send cards to him at 536 Pebble Brook Ln, Belleville IL 62221.

-Pray for **peace** in the world.

“Help my friends at my old house stay healthy, and make Sam’s headaches stop, and Jesus be my name.” At first, I translated those words in my mind so they made “sense.” But the longer she prayed, the more I got caught up in what she was saying. “And Jesus be my name.” She repeated that phrase at the end of every sentence, as if shouting to get my attention. It suddenly struck me. “And Jesus be my name.” Here I had come to carelessly try to be Jesus to “this poor woman.” But here she was, offering to be Jesus to me!

We are permitted the joy of serving others in Jesus’ name. We feed the hungry, visit the sick, care for children, befriend the lonely. Our reward is occasionally seeing our acts brighten up the faces of those we serve. But our serving is not sustainable if we do not also learn to see Jesus serving us through one another.

As a favorite hymn exclaims, “Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you. *Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*”

Blessings, Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Pastor & Teacher for Grantfork UCC

### **A Prayer for Buffalo and the World...**

God of eternal hope and healing, the United States awakens again to the news of lives lost in an act of terrorism – this time in the city of Buffalo.

Abide with us as we face fully into the grief and the fear, turning not our faces away from the horror of it all. Give us the courage to seed truth and shape a world that understands, embraces, and maintains your vision where all are known and loved for who they are and who you have called them to be.

Only then will the violence end.

Only then will we know the healing power of your enduring love.

Until then, help us all attend to the grief of those whose loved ones were hurt or killed in Buffalo. Their grief is our grief. Their anguish is our anguish. Their rage is our rage. May attentiveness to their grieving hearts also be the work of our hands as we come together to heal and to build a world where hate has no home. Amen.

### **The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...**

Congratulations and Thanks to ISC churches who have taken up the mission to help the Ukraine Relief Fund through ISC or UCC. If your church has participated in this mission, we'd like to share ideas with other churches.

- Belleville St. Paul UCC was able to send a second check directly to UCC for Ukraine Relief Fund for \$2,300 for a total sent since March of \$5,267.



Celebrate the Retirement of **Pastor Thomas E. Ellison**  
Sunday, May 29, 2022, at St. Mark UCC, DuBois, Illinois  
Worship Service at 10:00 am

Retirement luncheon and reception will be held following worship service at the Terry Deering Community Center located in the DuBois Village Park from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

### **To All United and Uniting in Christ: General Minister & President Search**

All are invited to participate in one of several upcoming listening sessions for the General Minister & President (GMP) search process. The purpose of these sessions is for the Search Committee to hear your sense of where the United Church of Christ is right now, and how you understand the challenges and opportunities our next General Minister & President will face. The listening sessions will be facilitated by members of the Isaacson Miller team, and members of the search committee will be listening. What we hear from you will shape the position profile, which is the document that will officially invite prospective candidates to apply.

We hope you will join us for one of these three sessions. Please note that there is one session specifically for people who self-identify as a youth or young adult, and one session for people who self-identify as a person of color. If these identities do not apply to you, choose the open session.

- Town Hall for Youth & Young Adults - Monday, May 23, 6:00 pm CDT. [Register here.](#)
- Town Hall for People of Color - Wednesday, May 25, 6:00 pm CDT. [Register here.](#)
- Open Town Hall #2 - Thursday, May 26th, 7:30 pm CDT. [Register here.](#)

If you would like to offer feedback but are unable to join these sessions, contact us at [gmpsearch@ucc.org](mailto:gmpsearch@ucc.org). For ongoing updates on the GMP search and call process, visit this dedicated [webpage](#).

**The Indiana/Kentucky Conference (IKC) Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) is planning work camps to Kentucky throughout the summer and have opened registration to our Conference. The next work camps are scheduled for the weeks of May 22 and June 26.** Typically, people arrive Sunday evening for an orientation meeting and depart for home on Saturday morning after cleaning up of the dorms. These camps are scheduled for Mayfield, Kentucky which was devastated by the December 10-11, 2021, tornadoes. Contact DPRMT at [gdenk5258@att.net](mailto:gdenk5258@att.net) or click [here](#) for more information or to register.

### Combat Burnout with Restorative Yoga

Are you exhausted, even flirting with burnout? Everything happening in the world and in our personal lives has been A LOT. We need more than ever to pause and renew our energy. Restorative yoga with Rev. Nicole Havelka, registered yoga teacher (500-hour level), will help you ground and center yourself so you can return to your life and work more curious, connected and courageous. Try her next seasonal two-hour yoga [session](#): Flourishing in the Sun: Summer Solstice Yoga Celebration, June 21, 6-8 pm CDT via Zoom. Tiered pricing and pay-as-you-are-able tickets are available. Want to try a shorter class? No problem. Try Nicole's one-hour weekly restorative yoga [class](#) any Wednesday at 7:30 am CDT. Your first class is always free.

## DuBois Center News

### Be a Counselor for the best summer of your life!

We still have two openings for summer camp counselors and

one or two barn staff! This is the perfect summer job for anyone who loves the outdoors, working with campers, helping others, and meeting new people.

A summer working at camp includes a full summer of room & board, competitive pay, 10 days of paid staff training, and lifelong memories! View the full job description and job descriptions [on our website](#)! We are on track to have *record attendance* this summer, so please come be part of our history! Contact Rylee at [Program@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:Program@DuBoisCenter.org) – or Hayley at [Director@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:Director@DuBoisCenter.org) for more information! The deadline to apply is Friday, May 20, 2022. Help us give the gift of summer to young campers!

### Volunteer Retreat Completes Camp Preparations-Sign Up NOW!

It's not too late to sign up! THIS Saturday and Sunday (May 21-22) is our volunteer retreat! Help us finalize our site preparation for summer camp, put on a fresh coat of paint around, and ready the horse barn for summer camp season! To help us with meal numbers and allergies, please sign up [here](#).



## Dreaming of Hillside Cottage

Take a look at this picture. It is the future site of Hillside Cottage, the crown jewel of the DuBois 6.0 campaign. This is where a new 20-person living and meeting space is going to be, just off the road to Coveside Cottage. It will be ADA compliant, solar powered, and about 1,400 sq. ft. It's going to be built with as much volunteer labor and recycled/ upcycled materials as we can muster. Hillside Cottage will add to our overnight guest capacity, and that adds to our bottom line. As with the other projects in DuBois 6.0, this is the time for us to move. Our campaign has been in motion for only 6 ½ months of a 14 ½ month effort. We're over \$173,086 - 76% of our \$225,290 goal. If we go over the goal, there are projects waiting in the wings that will continue to add to our programming, capabilities, and capacity.

### YOU can support DuBois 6.0!

- Volunteer to work on a project- the Property Committee would welcome your help. Contact Priscilla Self at [pjj48@hotmail.com](mailto:pjj48@hotmail.com) or Dave Hoffmann at [davehoff95@gmail.com](mailto:davehoff95@gmail.com).
- Make a personal or congregational donation- we can take everything from cash to stock and cryptocurrency. Make a [donation](#).
- And while you're at it, put our outdoor ministry center in your prayers for both a safe summer filled with fun and a successful capital campaign.

We're building faith, building capacity, and building for the next 60 years.



**CHHSM News**  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

A Message  
from the  
UCC  
Musicians



### Association

The United Church of Christ Musicians Association's (UCCMA) mission is to *inspire, educate and nurture those who minister through music and the arts*. Your church can benefit from the **free 90-day membership** in the UCCMA to view all the newsletters and journals. The Summer 2022 issue of our professional journal, *Worship, Music and Ministry*, is entitled "Serving Smaller Congregations" and addresses some of the challenges with music that smaller churches face, especially with regard to worship. To find out more, contact Michele at [michele@fccge.org](mailto:michele@fccge.org).

### St. John's Community Care - Family Caregiver Free Conference

Surviving Caregiving Conference offers the opportunity to family caregivers to learn about resources and techniques to help them on their caregiving journey on Sat, June 11 from 8:00 am-12:30 pm at Collinsville St. John UCC Faith Hall. This free conference is for unpaid family caregivers of older adults. Complimentary breakfast and lunch gift card are included. Complimentary care is available at St. John's Community Care Adult Day Center during the conference hours. Space is limited, and preregistration is required. 618-222-2561. This year's featured topics and keynote speakers:

- **Legal & Financial Issues** presented by Heidi Dodd, Partner with Harter, Larson & Dodd
- **Improving Function & Safety in the Home** presented by Adaptive Equipment Corner, Cindy Hardin-Weiss, MS/PT & Christina Hardin-Weiss, MS CCC/SLP
- **Understanding Behavior and Learning to be with People Living with Dementia** - presented by - Leslie Pedtke, MHA, LNHA
- **Dementia Resources & Coping - Helping You Age Well, Your Way** – AgeSmart, Hospice of Southern Illinois & St. John's Community Care

**Hoyleton Youth and Family Services will benefit from the Marine Trivia Night on Sat, June 11 at Marine UCC.** Doors open at 6:30 pm with games beginning at 7 pm. Cost is \$12 per person

with up to 8 players per table or \$96 per table. Door prizes and more. For reservations, contact 618-887-4465.

**The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center** offers three more sessions of *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders (MSTI)* scheduled for 2022: June 13-17 (in person in [Fort Mill, SC](#)), August 1-5 (in person in [Glen Ellyn, IL](#)), November 14-18 (in person in [Phoenix, AZ](#)). The session in Arizona will be held at the Franciscan Renewal Center; since lodging and all meals are included, the tuition for that particular session is somewhat higher.

Groups that will find this workshop beneficial are pastors, interim pastors, lay leaders, judicatory leaders, denominational officials, church consultants, administrators, managers and supervisors, college and seminary students, attorneys, and community mediation center staff and volunteers. Click [here](#) for a brochure. They also encourage those who experience financial hardship to fill out the scholarship [application](#) form, by which they award up to a 50% discount (\$375) specifically for the session in June in Fort Mill, SC.

### **The Insurance Board's Spring Newsletter, *The Steward*, Focus on Water**

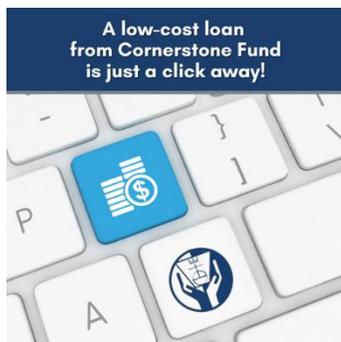
Over the years, water damage has been a leading cause of loss for churches. Although any building may be susceptible to water damage, churches are particularly the most vulnerable. Some of the most expensive water damage claims have occurred in unoccupied churches where no one is around to mitigate water leaks. Protecting a church's ministry and property is a crucial and essential priority. In some cases, water damage causes large-scale flooding and invites mold to grow as it thrives in humid conditions. Read [more](#).

### **Eden Seminary Event - May 31st – Eden's Summer Institutes: One Day Workshops**

presented by Gamaliel Race and Power Institute at Eden & Walker Leadership Institute. Participate online and in-person from 9 am - 4 pm. At registration, choose one of two workshops below:

- Anti-Oppression Theology & Tools (Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker, Rev. Sandhya Rani Jha, Angela K. James)
- Faith Non-Profit Management and Leadership (Steve Lawler)

Facilitators are Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker, Eden's Assistant Professor of Contextual Education and Community Engagement and Organizing Director, Gamaliel Race and Power Institute at Eden; Angela K. James, Director of Gamaliel Race and Power Institute; Rev. Sandhya Rani Jha, Anti-Oppression Consultant and Coach; and Steve Lawler, Director Walker Leadership Institute. Register [here](#).



### **A Low-Cost Loan from the Cornerstone Fund Is Just a Click Away!**

Sometimes you need to ask the difficult question. Deep down inside, you may already know the answer. But it's not until you actually take the time to assess and realistically address the situation that you decide to act on the solution. While this scenario applies to a variety of issues in life, the topic at hand is the condition of your church property.

Is your congregation considering making improvements on your building to expand ministry or increase revenue? Read [more](#).

Congregations and UCC-affiliated organizations across the country have taken advantage of Cornerstone Fund offerings. Regardless of your

church or organization needs, the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund may be able to assist. Visit [www.CornerstoneFund.org](http://www.CornerstoneFund.org) to learn more or contact a lending specialist at 888-UCC-FUND (888-822-3863) or [lending@cornerstonefund.org](mailto:lending@cornerstonefund.org).

# What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

## Church Pictorial Directory

Several churches have asked about companies producing church pictorial Directory. Here is [information](#) that was shared by Fairview Heights St. John UCC.

## Job Opportunities

**St. John's Community Care is in search for a Director of Development, Marketing & Communications.** A Bachelor's Degree in Marketing is preferred; at minimum, 4 years of experience in a related role in a nonprofit environment and skills in photography and video skills are a must. It is a salaried position working M-F 8:30-5:00 pm with a half hour lunch each day; must be flexible to accommodate after hours meetings and events. Starting wage at \$40,000/year, negotiable commensurate with experience. Click [here](#) for more information. Apply to [cstewart@stjohnscc.org](mailto:cstewart@stjohnscc.org) with resume and cover letter.

## Open Positions at Troy Friedens UCC

- Cemetery Sexton
- Nursery Attendant
- Director of Faith Formation

If interested, call 618-667-6535 or email [friedens@friedensucc-troy.org](mailto:friedens@friedensucc-troy.org)

## Belleville St. Paul UCC Vacancy-Organ and Piano Position

Areas of responsibilities include excellent organ and piano offerings for all services and accompaniment for weekly choir rehearsals and other musical ensembles as needed. In consultation with the senior pastor, serve as a resource for family weddings and funerals. Compensation will be appropriate to the weekly job responsibilities, background/experience, and professional preparation of the applicant. Please send resume with three references to [musicsearch@stpaulucc.org](mailto:musicsearch@stpaulucc.org).

**Music Director at Evangelical UCC in Highland - EvUCC in Highland** is looking for a Music Director who will be responsible for overseeing the directing, planning, and program development of the music 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. The successful candidate will plan and lead relevant, meaningful, and engaging weekly worship music experiences. Contact 618-654-7459 or [office@evucc.org](mailto:office@evucc.org) for additional information.

## Region 2

**Dupo Christ UCC will hold its WurstMarkt Sausage Dinner on Sat, May 21 from 11 am - 3 pm at the church.** Carry out or dine in at outdoor seating. Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn, applesauce, and cake. Adults \$12; Children 5 - 11 \$6.

**Valmeyer St. John UCC Women's Fellowship hosts The Bible & Folk Music on Sun, June 5 at 2 pm at 201 S Meyer Av in Valmeyer.** Features Barbara Van Ausdall. Bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, it will be presented in the sanctuary. Free will offering will be collected to benefit DuBois Center. Complimentary dessert and drinks will follow the program. All are welcome.

## Region 5

**Salem UCC's Women's Guild has created Recipes from the Heart**, a cookbook that is a combination of the first cookbook, published in 1977, the second cookbook, published in 1993, and several hundred more recipes, totaling almost 1200 recipes. It's a great gift idea. Cost is only \$15. To purchase a cookbook, contact 618-488-3215.

## Region 9

**Belleville Concordia UCC will hold its Annual Chicken Dinner on Sunday, June 5 from 11 am - 3 pm.** Dine-in or carry-out. Adults \$12; Children from 5 - 10 years \$6; Children under 5 years Free.

**Fairview Heights St. John UCC will hold a Parking Lot Sale on Saturday, May 21 from 8 am - Noon.** All sorts of items offered by over 12 households. Address is 10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL. All are welcome.

## Vacation Bible Schools

**May 31 - June 3;** 9 am - Noon; Waterloo St. Paul UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**June 6-10;** 9 am - Noon; Highland Evangelical UCC; *Make Waves*  
**June 6-10;** 8:30 am - 11 am; Okawville St. Peter's UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**June 6-10;** 8:30 am - 11:30 am; Valmeyer St. John UCC; *Making Waves*  
**June 6-10;** Columbia St. Paul UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**June 7-9;** 6:30 pm - 8 pm; Co-hosts: Trenton St. John UCC & First United Methodist Church but held at 3324 Old Rte 50 in Trenton; *Knights of North Castle*  
**June 7-9;** 6 pm - 8 pm; Troy Friedens UCC; *Discovery on Adventure Island*  
**June 13-16;** 9 am - Noon; Dupo Christ UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**June 20-24;** 8:45 am - Noon; Mascoutah St. John UCC; *Monumental*  
**June 24 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm and June 25 9 am - 11:30 am;** Belleville Concordia UCC; *HayDay*  
**June 25;** 9 am - 3:30 pm; Co-hosts Nashville St. Paul's UCC & Plum Hill St. John's UCC at Nashville St. Paul UCC; *Camp Out - Getting S'more of Jesus*  
**June 26 (10 am), June 28-30;** 6 pm - 8 pm; New Hanover Zoar UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**June 27-30;** 6 pm - 8 pm; Belleville St. Paul UCC & Belleville Trinity UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**June 28-30;** 9 am - Noon; Lebanon St. Paul UCC hosted at First UMC, 603 W. St. Louis St., Lebanon; *HayDay*  
**July 5-8;** 5:30 pm - 8 pm (dinner & snack); Centralia St. Peter UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**July 11-15;** 9 am - Noon; Collinsville St. John UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**July 11-15;** 6 pm - 8 pm; Red Bud St. Peter UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**July 12;** 9 am - 3 pm; St. Jacob UCC; *Making a Big Splash with Jesus*  
**July 17-21;** 6 pm - 8 pm; Granite City St. John UCC; *Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor*  
**July 18-21;** 6:30 pm - 8 pm; New Athens St. John UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*  
**July 18-22;** 9 am - noon; Fieldon UCC  
**July 24-28;** 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC  
**July 25-29;** 9 am - 11:30 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Rocky Railway*  
**Aug 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept 4, 11;** 9:15 am - 10:00 am; Alhambra Salem UCC, *SonHarvest County Fair*

## CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

**Please call before coming to the Conference Office or make an appointment with a staff member using the emails below.**

For the work of Conference teams and committees or search and call inquiries, contact Christy Pursell at [cpursell@iscucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org).

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at [lschuepbach@iscucc.org](mailto:lschuepbach@iscucc.org).

For DuBois Center information, contact Hayley Elliott at 618-787-2202 or [director@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:director@DuBoisCenter.org).

For DuBois Center program information, contact Rylee Hodges-Stone at 618-787-2202 or [program@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:program@DuBoisCenter.org).

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

To speak with the Conference Minister, contact Rev. Shana Johnson 618-882-8247 or [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto: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](#)

