



July 5, 2022



### A Pastor's Viewpoint

"God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness."

Genesis 1.3-4 CEB

Fourth of July fireworks, especially the thunderous ones which shake the earth with their power and light up the skies with their colors, truly amaze me. Better still are the looks of awe and squeals of delight from our grandchildren as they watch the fireworks show with us. There is nothing quite like it on earth, particularly as the finale hits its crescendo and the entire night sky, of which we are a part, cascades with sound, multi-hued brilliance, and designs of light, filling every human sense with tingles, laughter, and wonder.

It is as if on this one day, in this one moment of celebration, the fireworks themselves ultimately allow us in this country to acknowledge being one people, a grateful nation, an awestruck citizenry, and recipients of a gift greater than the sum of our own personal efforts or imagination. And, if this is so for we people in one nation on earth, then how much more so must it be for those of the global community who worship the One who continues to create the heavens and the earth? How much more so for the children in every nation who look up in the night and see the stars, uncountable in their number and unimaginably far-flung in their placement? How much more so for the grandchildren of every ethnicity and nationality who step into the night sky and run into the spreading light of a full moon with giggles of joy? How much more so for the ones of every gender, sexuality, and ability who, day after day and night after night, count their blessings which are more numerous than the sands on the shore or the stars in the sky, even during moments of gravest hardships and disappointment? How much more so for you, where you are and in what you do?

The beauty and awesome nature of the congregations and people of the Illinois South Conference of the United

### Prayer list for July 10-July 16, 2022

#### Church & Pastors

-Plum Hill St. John's  
UCC, Rev. Don Jones  
(right)



-Red Bud St. Peter  
UCC, Pastor Cory  
(Geraldine) Hartz  
(left)

#### Retired Pastor

- Rev. Elmer and Linda Bowman  
Jr., Trenton, IL

#### People with Life Concerns

-Pray for Jo-Ann Steiner as she deals with health issues. Jo-Ann is a member of Grantfork UCC and worked for many years at the Illinois South Conference office in Highland. Cards may be sent to her at 4524 Fairview Rd, Pocahton, IL 62275.

-Keep **Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister**, in your prayers as she is on an abbreviated Sabbatical. Please wait to send emails to her until her return on July 25. Instead, contact Christy Pursell at [cpursell@iscucc.org](mailto:cpursell@iscucc.org)

-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna deals with some health issues. Cards can be sent to her at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.

Church of Christ is nurtured and rooted in a faith which kneels before such an incredibly vibrant, vital, and imminent God. This God is beyond the fireworks of this earth yet speaks through them in expressions of Grace and Mercy which opens our tombs of death and grants us reason to be one people, a grateful gathering of believers, awestruck citizens of heaven itself, and daily receivers of a Gift greater than the sum of our own personal efforts or imagination. We are called beyond the mundane of Sunday liturgies to giggles of joy and squeals of delight in service of the One whom we know as Christ, Savior, and Friend. We are shaped by

-Pray for **Rev. Gus (Sue) Kuether** as he heals. Rev. Kuether is a retired ISC pastor who served on many ISC teams and committees. Cards may be sent to 536 Pebble Brook Ln, Belleville IL 62221.  
-Keep **Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer** in your prayers. Rev. Causer has served several churches in ISC. Cards may be sent to 11315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.  
-Pray for **Peace** and **Safety** for all.

thunderous ovations of Light which come forth from the Holy Spirit for the sake of extending Creation's Story into the stories of every living thing on earth and, the best part is, we are never alone in such work. For Freedom, Christ has set us free to truly be God's fireworks of Wonder wherever we are.

Our Baptismal identity calls us to daily reflect the glory of God, much as fireworks reflect our shared national journey. Let us never lag in zeal for either, neither let us give way to despair. God is still Speaking, Rev. Dr. Don Wagner, Pastor & Teacher, Lebanon St. Paul UCC

### Did you know? - The Justice and Mission Team Answers

*Your power company will pay you for excess electricity your solar panels generate on sunny days?*  
Call Illinois South Conference at 618-654 2125 to be directed to a Justice and Mission representative or try one of these sites for Illinois-specific information. <https://illinoisshines.com> or <https://www.illinoissfa.com>

### Deadline for Resolutions at Annual Meeting - July 17, 2022

A resolution is a motion that requires a decision and includes a recommended action. All resolutions presented to the Annual Meeting must be submitted to the Conference Council for review and classification (see attached [document](#)). The resolution must be sent to the Conference Moderator, Dr. Jill Baker, by July 17, 2022. Emergency resolutions (issues that may arise after the deadline for submittal but prior to Annual Meeting) will need to be sent to Dr. Baker by noon on Friday, October 14. All resolutions can be emailed to Dr. Baker at [jabaker5@aol.com](mailto:jabaker5@aol.com). Resolutions can be submitted by a church council or consistory, a congregation of the ISC that has approved a resolution at a regular or special meeting, the ISC Conference Council, or a committee or team of the Conference.



### “Making All Things New” will be the theme of the 34th biennial General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Here are details about GS Resolutions

- General Synod 34 will be held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis from June 30-July 4, 2023.
- Standing Rules have been revised. See it [here](#).
- Here is the [website](#) with GS resolution info and links.
- Resolutions can be submitted by: GS delegate or delegate-elect; local church (with concurrence of at least 5 other UCC churches), as Association, a Conference, an Affiliated Ministry, or the UCC Board.
- The Committee of Disposition will need time prior to the October 31 deadline to review resolutions.

## DuBois Center News

### Fall Festival Is Coming!

It is not too early to begin planning for DuBois' Fall Festival on Sunday, October 2. A change this year: instead of the Upscale Resale Shoppe, there will be a silent auction of upscale baskets. Please organize your congregation or church group to prepare a themed basket worth a minimum of \$50. Be creative, be generous, list the contents and notify Audrey Hicks of your donation by Sunday, September 18 at [audhicks@hotmail.com](mailto:audhicks@hotmail.com), 618-939-8673, or 618-604-9792.



**Our 7th Rainbow Camp will be Saturday, August 13 from 9 am to 7 pm.** This year, we're bringing back Rainbow Camp Plus, the optional overnight stay in Hickory Lodge on Friday night, August 12, which will start at 5 pm. We'll have all your favorite camp activities, including horseback riding, water games, canoeing, archery, fishing, crafts, and a whole lot more. Rainbow Camp is for Queer singles, couples and families, and our straight allies. Go to [www.DuBoisCenter.org](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org) to register. Bring a friend and come join the fun! Click [here](#) for a flyer. **Register by July 29, 2022.**

### DuBois 6.0 Campaign Update

We are over **\$190,000** for a total donation as of this edition. There are several projects that have been completed. But since camp is in full swing, some projects have been funded but not completed so as not to interfere with the kids at camp.

**If you are looking for one of the larger projects to add your funds** to as a church or organization, you may want to choose from these. Or check out the original [list](#) for some smaller projects to fit your group.

- New hay barn (estimated at \$30,000)
- Road repair (estimated at \$18,500)
- Hillside Cottage Build (estimated at \$77,000)

We thank everyone for being a part of this fantastic venture to build faith, capacity, and opportunities for the next 60 years.



### Attention Deaconess School of Nursing Alumni

On Sunday, August 14, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at The Jewel Box

in St. Louis' Forest Park, Deaconess Nurse Ministry invites the Deaconess School of Nursing Alumni to attend a Healthy Impact Dinner. There is no charge to attend, but an RSVP is required by August 1. Donations are welcome to enhance the ministry of Deaconess Nurse Ministry as they celebrate the alumni and the legacy of Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders. The Deaconess Hospital heritage carries a strong connection to the Evangelical roots of the United Church of Christ. To register, click [here](#), call 314-395-4655, or email [dpupillo@faithnurses.org](mailto:dpupillo@faithnurses.org) or [adm@faithnurses.org](mailto:adm@faithnurses.org).



*CHHSM News*  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

### Hoyleton Youth & Family Services Golf Classic '22

Have fun playing golf with your friends and support the Hoyleton Youth & Family Services on **Friday, September 16 at Tamarack Golf Course**, 800 Tamarack Lane in Shiloh. Many sponsorship opportunities if you can't take the day away from work. \$100 per person/\$400 per team. Register online; call 618-688-4742; or email [lselden@hoyleton.org](mailto:lselden@hoyleton.org).

### Hoyleton Youth & Family Services Back to School Supply Drive

You can help each of the Hoyleton residents go to school prepared by donating items or cash for school supplies. Choose from items on their Amazon [wish list](#). You can drop off supplies at

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services at 8 Executive Dr., Ste 200 in Fairview Heights between 8 am - 4 pm on Monday, Aug 1 or by appointment between July 25 - July 29.

## What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

### Boundary Training

As part of clergy's covenant and standing with the ISC, they are required to attend Boundary Training every three years. Church leaders may also register if they choose to. The final ISC Boundary Training of the year will take place on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, via Zoom from 8:30 am - Noon. This training will be for active and retired clergy as well as interested church leaders. If interested in attending, contact Christy at [cpursell@iscucc.org](mailto:cpursell@iscucc.org). She will then provide the meeting link and ID. Fees for the training are \$20 for retired ISC pastors and \$25 for active ISC pastors and/or church leaders. Fees for non-ISC pastors (those with standing outside of ISC) are \$25 for retired pastors and \$30 for active pastors. To register/pay, send a check payable to Illinois South Conference and noted for Boundary Training to 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249 or call Christy at 618-420-2608 to make a payment by credit card.



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Illinois South Conference 2022 Ministers' Retreat: "Creative Connections" November 2 and 3, 2022

#### Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center, Columbia, IL

The Local Church Ministries Team is offering a time away for Illinois South ministers (both active and retired) to be welcomed into community, spiritually nourished, and boosted in creative confidence. We will engage our theme of Creative Connections by providing activities, conversations, and creative projects that will remind us that we are created in God's image and help us find the joy and courage in that once again! Whether you consider yourself "creative" or not, there will be something for you at this retreat. Registration information will be available soon.

**Job Opportunities - Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC is in search for a Part-time Music Leader.** This position requires excellent people skills in working with the Council, Pastor, Secretary, committees, and Sunday school teachers. Music skills include the ability to play a Wick's two-manual pipe organ with pedals and piano. Good vocal skills are a plus but not required. The church does not have a choir but occasionally has special instrumentalists and vocalists. Church services are currently 10 am - 11 am on Sundays. Special services include Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and two Easter services.

### 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)

**Music Director at Evangelical UCC in Highland** 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.

**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).

**Region 5 - Marine UCC** runs a free lunch program Monday to Friday from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Attendees do not need to be from the Marine area. No need to register and no pre-qualification is necessary. Anyone and everyone are invited. Thanks for helping to feed the people.

### Vacation Bible Schools

**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 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) Rev. Shana Johnson is on an abbreviated sabbatical until July 25. Please send emails after that date.

#### *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](#)

