



The Saints of God Among Us

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

--Hebrew 12: 1

Today is All Saints Day in the life of the church. It is a day set aside on the liturgical calendar to remember those who have gone from earthly to eternal life. Liturgically, this day is a feast holiday, and although you might not prepare certain foods to celebrate it, I invite you to set it aside as a holy day to feast on the memories of those whose faith continues to have a lasting impression on you.

In recent years, the term "saint" has been almost void in our conversations about faith. As a result, the mere mention of the word conjures up more secular images. Many think the term "saints of God" is likened to celebrity status, as if they are the select few of God's A list who have received some special invitation to walk the red carpet into the heavenly palaces.

We are a culture obsessed and over-saturated with the illusions of celebrity status. As such, these images are more prominent in our psyches. But in short, the most significant difference between a celebrity and a saint is this: Celebrities distance themselves from us by their fame, whether it lasts fifteen minutes or a lifetime, whereas saints share our common ground and open a place in the circle of forgiven sinners.

In the New Testament, saints of God are defined as the forgiven who know it, act on it, and live by grace without angling for stained-glass-window status. The late William Stringfellow described saints as "those who relish the event of life as a gift and realize that the only way to honor such a gift is to give it away."

One of my favorite hymns as a child was "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God," which Lesbia Scott wrote for her children to teach them about All Saints Day.

*I sing a song of the saints of God,
 Patient and brave, and true,*

Prayer list for Nov 6 - 12, 2022

Church & Pastors

-Dupo Christ
 UCC, Rev. Todd (Suzanne)
 Mushaney (right)



-Dupo First
 Congregational UCC,
 Rev. Julie Kies (left)

Retired Pastor

Rev. David and Kathryn Riebeling,
 Fults, IL

People with Life Concerns

-Please pray for **Rev. Dana Schindler** as she recovers from a fall and its injuries. Rev. Schindler is the Pastor at Hamel Immanuel UCC and Edwardsville St. Paul UCC. Cards may be sent to 4600 McKendree Apt 112, Godfrey, IL 62035.

-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna deals with some memory loss. Good news...Jim reported that he is still in remission. Cards can be sent to them at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.

-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.

*Who toiled and fought and lived and died
For the Lord, they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And one was a shepherdess on the green:*

*They were all of them saints of God—and I mean,
God's helping to be one too.*

*They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
And his love made them strong.
And they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
The whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
And one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
And there's not any reason—no, not the least,
Why I shouldn't be one too.*

*They lived not only in ages past,
There are hundreds of thousands still,
The world is bright with the joyous saints
Who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea,
For the saints of God are just folk like me,
And I mean to be one too.*

This hymn also reminds us of our music's importance—we sing our theology. The theology of this hymn is good theology—the saints of God are all around us.

We can see them teaching in public classrooms. We can see them in hospital emergency rooms, serving with skill and embracing with compassion someone who has just learned that a spouse of 60 years has died on an operating room table. We can see them in retirement homes, speaking to the fragile ones who sit, mute and staring, in the wheelchair line in the hallway. We see them as busy adults who make time for youngsters who desperately need their time, guidance, and support. We can see them in auto repair shops where customers receive an honest job at a fair price.

The list of saints is a long list of people. They are gifts from God to us, beacons that light the way. Today let us pause and give thanks for those who realized the only way to honor the gift of life that God had given was to give it away.

These are the saints of God.

And by their life and example, may we be challenged to be one too.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

--Pray for the individuals and families who are grieving the injury and loss of victims of the recent school shooting in St. Louis.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

“Women Of St. Paul Waterloo” hosted a food drive to stock the shelves of the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service (HNS) food pantry. Students in need will not have access to free school breakfast or lunch during Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. Thank you to those who donated nonperishable food and monetary gifts and for your continued support of local families in need. HNS serves Waterloo,

Columbia, Hecker, Valmeyer, and Prairie Du Rocher. Pictured above (L - R): Michelle Talley, Carol Hoffman, Kathi Emery and Pearl Hirsch.

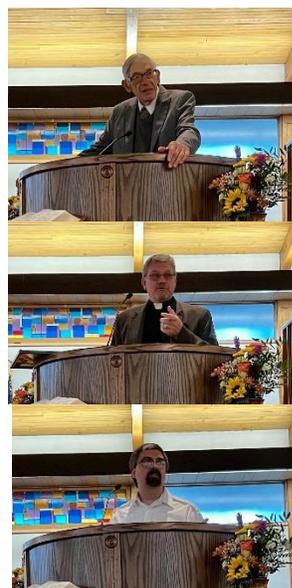
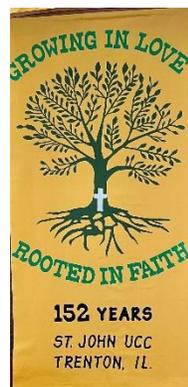
“A Promise Kept” - The music ministry at **Evangelical United Church of Christ in Godfrey** invites everyone in the Conference to join them and make a joyful noise this Christmas. They will present the cantata “A Promise Kept” on December 17 at 3 pm. For details about rehearsals and contact information click [here](#). They look forward to seeing you and singing with you soon!

Time Capsule Recovered - During the 150th Anniversary year for **Grantfork UCC**, it was remembered that a Time Capsule of various items collected from their church groups and individuals had been collected during their 125th Anniversary year to be opened 25 years later during the next celebration. A treasure hunt, of sorts, took members through the yard with a metal detector and a trip to the basement to review minutes from that time to find where the Time Capsule was. While in the basement to read minutes, the Time Capsule was discovered, protected by a glass case and waiting to be opened. The Anniversary Committee decided to have a formal opening as part of their All Saints Sunday worship on Sunday, Nov 6, while they remember and celebrate the contributions of those who have gone before. The committee will read a few of the letters and display all items in the Education Building after the service. They invite individuals and groups from Grantfork UCC to collect some items to place in the Time Capsule to be opened at the 175th Anniversary in 2047. Everyone is invited to attend the service and see what was collected 25 years ago.

Did You Know...In August, the federal Inflation Reduction Act became law and the federal tax incentive to install solar has increased. You will now receive 30% of the full system cost as a credit against your total tax liability for solar systems installed between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2032.



“Growing in love, rooted in faith,” a celebration of 152 years of ministry at Trenton St. John UCC with their pastor, Rev. Christy Eckert, former pastors Rev. Sam Roethemeyer and Rev. Steve Boorsma, a son of the congregation, Rev. Joey Feldman, and Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister. A banner displayed the theme of the celebration, “Growing in Love: Rooted in Faith.” What a blessed occasion! In the



group photo right are (front row) Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister, and Rev. Christy Eckert, Trenton St. John UCC Pastor; (back row) Rev. Joey Feldman, Rev. Sam Roethemeyer, and Rev. Steve Boorsma.



On Sunday, Oct 30, Rev. William (Bill) Kapp was installed as Pastor & Teacher at the Highland Evangelical UCC. Many members of the search committee were active in the service as well as members of the Committee on Ministry and several clergy from throughout the Conference. Rev. Nancy Brooks (on the left in the below right photo), a member of COM, leading the liturgy of installation. Rev. Krista Betz, Director of Leadership Initiatives for The Pension Boards - United Church of Christ,



was the preacher of the day (photo above left). The church choir sang (photo top right). The church bell choir played a joyous,



moving song (photo middle right). It was a service of a successful search process for both the congregation and Rev. Kapp. Participating pastors (photo above left) : Rev. Katie Jo Bielke, Collinsville St. John UCC; Rev. Jeremy Wood, Alhambra Salem UCC; Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister; Rev. Paul Thompson, Jr., retired; Rev. Bill Kapp, Highland Evangelical UCC; Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Grantfork UCC; Rev. Krista Betz, Director of Leadership Initiatives for The UCC Pension Boards; Rev. Nancy Brooks, member of the ISC Committee on Ministry; Rev. Diane Grohmann, retired; Rev. Todd Mushaney, Dupo Christ UCC.



The UCC National Offices held an open house at the new offices housing the employees of the United Church of Christ. The doors were open wide at the United Church of Christ's new national offices in Cleveland on Wednesday, Oct. 19.

Staff held a community open house for church family, friends and local partners, and despite the rainy, cold and damp day outside, the afternoon event was warm and well attended.

The three national officers – General Minister and President, John Dorhauer, and Associate General Ministers, Traci Blackmon and Karen Georgia Thompson, — all recorded welcome videos so they could personally greet every visitor as they made their way through the space. The video above will give you a virtual tour of the space conducted by Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President.

Read the entire article [here](#).

General Synod 34 & GS Frequency Update

June 30 - July 4, 2022 – Indianapolis

“Making All Things New” will be the theme of the 34th biennial General Synod of the United Church of Christ, scheduled for June 30 - July 4, 2023, in Indianapolis. Information will be added to the [General Synod website](#) as it becomes available. You can also sign up to receive updates. Also, see below for an update from the UCC Board regarding General Synod frequency and format.

For the past four years, there has been a renewed effort to review the form, function, and frequency of General Synod. Motivations for this review include:

- 1. Sustainable Resource Use:** As financial and staff resources at the national setting have declined over the last decade, the portion of the remaining resources devoted to General



Synod has increased, particularly in relation to staff time. A smaller national staff (about 75 full-time and 30-ish part-time) has meant that up to two-thirds of staff time has to be devoted to planning and preparation in Synod years. As a result, staff cannot devote themselves to the deep engagement with the wider church as is expected. Furthermore, other settings of the UCC, including conferences, have expressed strain on financial and staff resources due to the current General Synod model. [Staff resources was our leading concern in writing the proposal, not financial resources, although those figure in, especially for Conferences.]

2. **Environmental Stewardship:** General Synod has a significant environmental impact, especially with thousands of people traveling from around the country and around the world. At a time when the effects of climate change are growing clearer, the need to make changes to better steward earthly resources is undeniable.
3. **Accessibility:** General Synod has been life changing for so many who have had the opportunity to attend. However, for many others who do not have the time, finances, or ability to travel, the blessings of Synod have been out of reach. Just access to General Synod is essential.

In considerations of the above motivations, **the General Synod Review Committee has recommended, and the UCC Board of Directors has affirmed, that General Synod be held every three years in a hybrid format, allowing in person and virtual participation.**

1. While we realize this potential change would come with grief from less frequent gathering, we also see the potential of this change to bring opportunities relating to the above motivations. A less frequent General Synod will free national setting resources to engage in newer and deeper ways with the other settings of the church and beyond. Also, the strain on the resources of other settings would be eased.
2. Less travel reduces the UCC carbon footprint and sets an example for more responsible stewardship of Creation.
3. A hybrid model allows for greater accessibility and a broader impact for those unable to participate in the physical gathering.

Logistics:

- The change in frequency will require a bylaws change to be voted on by General Synod in 2023.
- The suggested frequency bylaws change will include adjustments to terms for elected positions.
- Hybrid options do not require a vote and can be implemented by the planning team of the UCCB.
- The first Synod impacted by this change would be the shift from 2027 to 2028 because the planning team must book locations well in advance.



The First People's Conservation Council (FPCC) Disaster Case Management Program in the US Gulf Region - Dr. Laura Olson briefed the Conference Disaster Coordinators (CDCs) about a disaster recovery project of the First Peoples Conservation Council, which has received funding support from Global H.O.P.E. - Disaster Ministries.

The First Peoples Conservation Council is a collaborative network of nonprofit organizations, civil society organizations, and local tribes. Their goal is to produce transformational outcomes, participatory processes, and the co-creation of knowledge with tribal communities in south Louisiana that were hard-hit by Hurricane Ida. They are pursuing this through a disaster case

management program that the UCC helped realize with a Recovery and Repair Grant. This coalition is building local capacity and equity through understanding local systems and ensuring that tribal communities know how to secure assistance and serve their membership as case managers. The case management effort is focused on developing these vital skills to endure and become a feature of tribal resilience on the Gulf Coast.

Keeping You Informed...

As your church completes its annual meeting, send the current officers of your church to lschuepbach@iscucc.org. We want to keep the correct officers updated with information that directly affects that office. If your church's annual meeting is later this year or at the beginning of 2023, let us know as it occurs. Thanks so much.

Green DuBois Workday



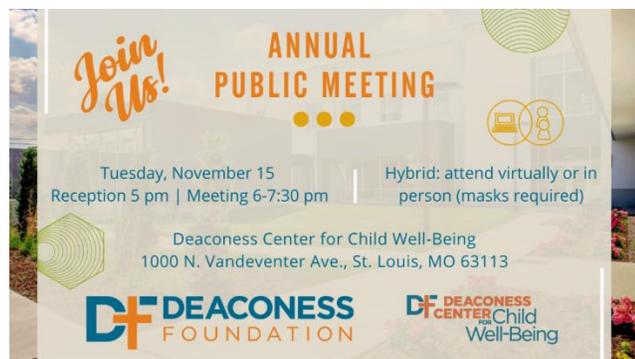
The next Green DuBois workday will be Sat, Nov. 5, from 9

am- noon at camp. The plan is to remove Japanese Bush Honeysuckle, an invasive vine, likely around the Rustic side of camp. Anyone who wants to help should meet around the gate area to gather tools and supplies before driving to Rustic. If you have your own loppers or pruners, please bring them. If you own a chainsaw, bring that too, as we always find a few giants. Also, bring work gloves and water bottles. Contact greendubois@aol.com for more information. Hope to see you there.



DuBois 6.0 Campaign Update

Over 180 people, consisting of Lay Delegates from each church, clergy, Conference Council Delegates, Visitors, and MarketPlace representatives, showed their support of the DuBois 6.0 capital campaign through their donations to the worship offering. Because of your generosity the total for the DuBois 6.0 campaign is nearly \$240,225.



Open Invitation to Anyone in the Illinois South Conference

The **Deaconess Foundation** Annual Public Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15, at Deaconess Center, 1000 N Vandeventer Ave, St. Louis, MO 63113. A reception will be at 5 pm with the meeting from 6 pm - 7:30 pm. All

members of Illinois South Conference are invited to attend but must register online [here](#).

Back Bay Mission Kicks Off Celebrating Its 100 Year Anniversary with a Capital Campaign.

Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives. Find out more about its celebration and capital campaign by watching the video above. For volunteer opportunities, check out the [calendar](#) for 2023. The calendar for 2024 will be available Jan 1. Dates go quickly. Or if you have questions, email volunteercoordinator@thebackbaymission.org.

After Pandemic-Induced Hiatus, Deaconess Foundation CDF Freedom Schools Return to St. Louis - After a two-year hiatus caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Deaconess Foundation in St. Louis welcomed back students to its Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools, held this past summer. The seven-week enrichment program took place at four locations throughout the Greater St. Louis area: Christ the King UCC in Florissant, Mo.; Peace UCC in Webster Groves, Mo.; and Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community) UCC and Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being, both in St. Louis. [Read more.](#)

Mission Dash 5K Raises More Than \$25K for Climate Justice

Hundreds of people committed to climate justice decided to "Do the Dash" in August. Global Ministries – the common overseas ministry of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – hosted the virtual event during the month of August to support creation-care efforts of international partners in each of the five regions of the world it serves. Details of those projects can be found [here](#). People were invited to run, walk, roll or stroll, as they were able, for neighbors and friends around the world. Three-hundred, twenty-seven registrants answered that call, 96 of which held their own personal fundraisers. Some participants even formed teams — 45 of them in all. [Read more](#)

Applications open for new Executive Director

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ has opened applications for a new Executive Director. The application deadline is Nov 25. The start date is Dec 19. The ONA Coalition is the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world. It supports not-yet-ONA congregations on their path towards an Open and Affirming covenant and supports existing ONA congregations with resources and training programs in mission, ministry and advocacy. The Executive Director implements the Coalition's strategic goals and objectives and provides direction and leadership toward the achievement of the organization's mission and vision. Click [here](#) for more information.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 11

Save the date for an
Illinois South Conference
One Day Youth Event at
DuBois Center for
grades 7 to 12.

**TEAR DOWN
THE WALLS
BUILD BRIDGES
ISC
YOUTH EVENT**

10AM TO 8PM

March 11, 2023
10am to 8pm
DuBois Center
More details to follow



Save the Date - Day of Discipleship

Saturday, March 4, 2023, will be our Day of Discipleship at Alhambra Salem UCC. Our keynote speaker will be Rev. Kelsey Beebe. We will have a day filled with spiritual practices and finding joy in our lives and ministries.

Rev. Kelsey Beebe, MFA Dance, MDiv, 200RYT (Pronouns: she/her) Rev.

Kelsey Beebe believes firmly in an all-loving God, embodied Christ, and ever-moving Holy Spirit that connects us all. She is a trained dancer, certified yoga instructor, as well as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She serves as a solo pastor at two churches just south of Milwaukee, WI, and is the Executive Minister and President of [Dancing Pastor Ministries](#) and host of the [Lady Preacher Podcast](#). She has performed, preached, and led retreats all around the United States and even in Costa Rica. Her passion is helping people embody their faith as they connect more deeply with God, with others, and with themselves.

Region 5

Grantfork UCC will hold its 52nd Annual Sausage Supper on Sat, Nov 12 from 2 pm - 7 pm. It is drive through only. Menu includes homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, and applesauce. Fresh or fried packaged sausage for sale at the end of the drive thru. Sponsored by the Grantfork UCC Men's Fellowship. All dinners \$12.

On Sun, Nov 6, Marine UCC will hold its Drive-Thru Whole Hog Pork Sausage Dinner at the church from 11 am - 5:30 pm. Menu includes whole hog pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, sauerkraut and apple pie. All dinners \$12. Raffle for quilt, side of beef, whole hog, and 4 dinners for Nov 5, 2023. Fresh meat sale on Sat, Nov 5 from 9 am - 2 pm and also on Sun, Nov 6 from 9 am - 5:30 pm. Choose from sausage links, ribs, and backbones in 5 lb. packages. Liver sausage and head cheese also available. For orders and raffle tickets, call the church office at 618-887-4465.

Region 7

Addieville Zion UCC will hold its 72nd Annual WurstMarkt on Wed, Nov 9 at the Addieville Community Club from 4 pm - 7 pm. Drive-thru only. Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, peas, applesauce, and cookies. Cost \$12.

Region 8

Mascoutah St. John UCC will hold its Beef & Noodle Dinner All You Can Eat on Fri, Nov 4 from 11 am - 1 pm for lunch and from 5 pm - 7 pm for dinner. Menu includes beef & noodles, tossed salad, green beans, rolls, drinks, homemade pies & desserts. Adults \$13; Children 6-12 \$5; Children under 6 are Free. Carry Outs are available at 618-566-7311. Benefits go to the Mascoutah Senior Center and Leu Civic Center.

Belleville St. Paul UCC will hold its Trivia Night on Sat, Nov 19 in its Activity Center. Doors open at 6 pm and play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$25 per person. Free mulligans with purchase of a table of 8 for \$200. Host is Michael Wagner. Bring your own food and drinks of choice. Table theme is Teams, Tunes, Tomes, Talkies & TV. Prize for best dressed table/team. Cash prizes for 1st-3rd places. Basket raffle and 50/50.

Job Opportunities

Friedens UCC in Marissa seeks part-time organist and/or pianist. Duties include playing organ and/or piano on Sundays for our 10am worship services as well as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, mid-week Lenten services, and our Pre-Lenten breakfast. Position includes 4 paid Sundays off (except for Easter) for vacation time. Services

normally consist of a prelude, 2-3 hymns, some short, sung responses, and a postlude. To apply or for more information please contact Rev. Brett Palmer at marissafriedens@gmail.com or call the church office 618-295-2004.

St John UCC in Fairview Heights seeks a part time Church Secretary. Duties include answering the phone, process and distribute email and regular mail and ordering supplies as needed. Preparing the Sunday bulletin, the annual meeting reports, newsletter, coordinate the church calendar, keep Member contribution files updated in Church Windows and providing support to the Pastor and other ministries of the Church. A full job description will be provided at the interview. 9-12 hours weekly and should be familiar with Word and Excel. Contact the Church office at 618-660-8894 or email stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com.

St. Paul United Church of Christ, Columbia is seeking a full-time Office and Communications Coordinator. The position includes management of the church office in coordination with pastor(s) and other staff, and oversight of all areas of communications. The successful candidate will have strong IT skills and knowledge of social media platforms, experience and proficiency with Microsoft Office suite, and know the basics of the church database ACS. The person we hire will have appreciation of church culture, be a self-starter, have good interpersonal skills, and be flexible with change. The salary range for this position is \$48,000-\$55,000. The position also includes health insurance and the pension and disability plan of the United Church of Christ. Send your resume to: jobs@stpaulcolumbia.org

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. Contact the church secretary at 618-357-8075.

Open Positions at Troy Friedens UCC

- Nursery Attendant
- Director of Faith Formation

If interested, call 618-667-6535 or email friedens@friedensucc-troy.org.

Music Ministry Director at Evangelical UCC in Highland, this position will promote leadership in developing and implementing the music ministries of the Church, and actively engage the congregation in worship through music. The Director serves as a resource to support, foster and coordinate the worship life of the congregation through congregational, choral, and special music. This is a part time position, averaging 15 hours per week. Scheduling is flexible and offers competitive compensation. Candidates can apply by sending their resume to office@evucc.org. Click [here](#) for details.

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

Please call (618-654-2125) 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 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 program information, contact Rylee Bernhardt 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 or inquire about search & call matters, 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.

[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](#)

[Pension Board-UCC](#) [St. John's Community Care](#) [UCC Insurance Board](#)

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

