

Weekly Connection

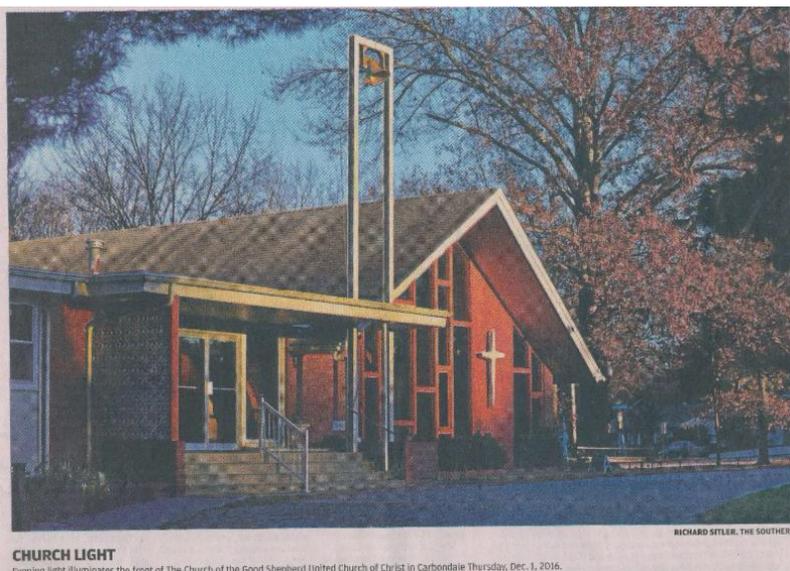
For the Week of January 15, 2017 - January 21, 2017
 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference.... Retirement Celebration for Rev. Pamela Smith will be held on Sun, Jan 29 at 2 pm at Zion UCC in Central City. They invite you to join them to say farewell to Rev. Pamela Smith as she embarks on this new journey after 27 years in ministry. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to their church office by Wed, Jan 25 to 618-532-1751 or zionuccil@att.net. If you would like to contribute to a card tree for her, send cards to Amber Rhodes, Zion UCC, 101 N Broadway, Centralia IL 62801.

Important Links

- iscucc.org/
- duboiscenter.org
- ucc.org
- [Back Bay Mission](#)



CHURCH LIGHT
 Evening light illuminates the front of The Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Carbondale Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016.

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Carbondale made the news in the December 1, 2016 issue of the *Southern Illinoisan*. Caption reads, "CHURCH LIGHT, Evening light illuminates the front of The Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Carbondale Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016." Congrats to Church of the Good Shepherd for "shining the Light"!

- [Ecuador Partnership](#)
- [Eden Theological Seminary](#)
- [Deaconess Foundation](#)
- [Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)
- [Emmaus Homes](#)
- [Hitz Memorial Home](#)
- [Hoyleton](#)
- [Insurance Board](#)
- [LIFE Program](#)
- [Neighborhood Houses](#)
- [New Athens Home](#)
- [St. John's Community Care](#)
- [St. Paul's Home](#)

Showing Up

Don and Millie were the kind of church members that showed up every time the doors of the church were open. They were consistently supportive of the pastors and ministries of the church. When I served as their pastor, I was grateful for the ways they supported the work and ministry of the church. Yet, more importantly I will forever be grateful for the lesson they taught me about the importance of "showing up" for people.



People in the church and community knew that if there was a funeral, a wedding or celebration, Don and Millie would be there to celebrate with you. They attended weddings, celebrations, visitations and funerals. They visited you in the hospital. They prayed for you and with you in all times and seasons when prayer was appropriate. They sent cards of congratulations, cards of sympathy and cards of care, support and concern. They even called people on their birthdays to sing "Happy Birthday."

It didn't matter if their singing was off key or if they did not purchase cards from the Hallmark store. It didn't matter if their prayers were not lofty or if they did not always know exactly what to say in every situation. None of that mattered. They did not wait for the right moment, or the right words before extending themselves to others.

ISC Directory

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

Pray for...

Prayer list for
Jan 15 - Jan 21, 2017
Churches & Pastors

- Hookdale St. Peter UCC, Rev. P. Jerry Bennett
- Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC, Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer

They did not feel the need to be perfect because they believed completely in a perfect God who would show up right alongside of them every time.

I thought of Don and Millie the other day when I attended a funeral for a pastor who served in our Conference. We had extended an invitation to clergy to participate in a clergy procession at the funeral, and I have to confess, I was a bit worried that no one would be able or willing to take the time and make the drive to participate. When a handful of this pastor's colleagues began to show up with robes and stoles in hand, I got a bit misty eyed, and I immediately thought of Don and Millie. Like these pastors, Don and Millie would have showed up.

There is an important ministry we can all have when we choose to show up. When we choose to show up for others, not out of a sense of obligation or duty, but rather out of a true earnest spirit of showing our love, our support, our concern, and our care, we create opportunities for Christ to be present in tangible and real ways. Christ can and will work through our willingness to extend ourselves selflessly to others.

Sometimes we second guess ourselves. Sometimes we wonder what we could really do or add to a situation. Or sometimes we simply don't make the time. Too often, we mistakenly think it is about us, when indeed it is not about us at all. Don and Millie knew this and I learned from their example. I try to practice the ministry of showing up. It is not always possible, and I don't always do it as well as I could, but I can confidently tell you, I have NEVER regretted the times I chose to show up.

I encourage you to consider a ministry of showing up. Ask God to show you the moments and opportunities where others need you to be present with them. Challenge yourself to make the time for others. Build the courage and confidence to say yes, even when you might question what you can offer. Remember it is not about you. It is about opening up a space for Christ to work in, and through you, show up to be alongside of others in good times and bad.

Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana

My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

January 15

Preaching at Winter Weekend, DuBois Center

January 22

Worshiping at St. Paul UCC, Floraville

January 29

Worshiping at Zion UCC Central City (*Service of Farewell for Rev. Pamela Smith)

**Please note Sunday, January 29 also marks the retirement of Rev. Gail Geisel from Friedens UCC in Marissa, Illinois and the end of Rev. Ted Engelsdorfer's ministry at Peace UCC in Jerseyville. Please keep these pastors and congregations in your prayers during this time of transition and discernment.*

I am currently planning my worship schedule for April 2017 and beyond. If I have not been at your church yet, I would love an invitation! Please reach out to me at the office at 618-654-2125 or on my cell phone at 618-882-8247 with some possible dates. You can also send me an email at sjohnson@iscucc.org. I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing in worship with you.

Blessings, Shana



Festival of Faith for Middle Schoolers 6th to 8th grades

The Festival of Faith 2017 is an event for 6th-8th graders and their chaperones. It will take place on February 18-19 (Saturday & Sunday) at DuBois Center. We welcome **Jay Tyson** from St Paul UCC Waterloo as the event's new leader and thank him for taking on this exciting, but challenging, responsibility! Please note the important dates - **January 24 for space requests** and **February 6 for paperwork /payment to the ISC office**. The [packet](#) has been emailed to all of the churches and youth leaders in an effort to be green and to save on mailing costs. However, we would be happy to mail hard copies to churches if requested.

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Jack Spratte and Barbara VanAusdall, Mascoutah, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Memorial services for Rev. Max (Norma) Pepmeier will take place at 11 am on Sat, Jan 28 at St Paul UCC in Waterloo. Cards of condolence may be sent to his wife, Norma Pepmeier at 623 Hamacher Street, Waterloo IL 62298.

- Pray for Rev. Arnold (Luetta) Bizer as he deals with health issues. Rev. Bizer served as pastor of Alhambra Salem UCC prior to retiring. Cards may be sent to 602 Woodchuck Ln, Lake St. Louis MO 63367.

- Keep Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders in your prayers as he deals with health issues. Cards may be sent to him at 2921 Moniteau, St. Louis, MO 63121.

- Pray for Grace (Rev. Loren) Windhorst as she recuperates after returning home from the hospital and a rehabilitation facility. Cards may be sent to her at 10 E Hawthorne Pkwy, Apt 235, Vernon Hills, IL 60061.

- Pray for Pastor Dennis Gilbert as he deals with health issues. Cards may be sent to 3305 Joyce Dr. Belleville, IL 62226.

Churches in Transition

- Seeking a part-time Pastor St. John UCC, Evansville. St. John is a traditional church with a charm which one can find in a small town. The congregation is small and friendly and is looking for a pastor who will challenge the congregation, with sensitivity to their context. If interested, contact Tom Zweigart, St. John's church council president, at home, 618-853-4075, or on his cell at 618-792-5491.

- Seeking Part-Time Interim Pastor Zion UCC. Zion is located in Metropolis, the official hometown of Superman. It is a conservative congregation which enjoys a close relationship with God and each other. They want the interim pastor to help them focus on the future and help them grow spiritually. Contact

The new 2017 ISC Directory is here!!

You can download it [here](#) or anytime at the ISC [website](#) under the Resources tab. We will keep that link updated when/if we hear that something has changed. There is always a link in the Weekly Connection as above.

Rev. Shana Johnson,
Designated Conference Minister
of the Illinois South Conference
at sjohnson@iscucc.org or 618-654-2125.

As a member of the ISC Justice & Witness Team, Ron Trimmer shares this invitation for learning more about the issue of climate change.



Climate advocates and Library to host viewing party for 'Years of Living Dangerously'

On Wed, Dec. 7, Citizens' Climate Lobby was featured in the acclaimed National Geographic series "Years of Living Dangerously," which has helped to focus national attention on climate change and the individuals and organizations working to alleviate it. "Years of Living Dangerously" airs Wednesdays on the National Geographic Channel. On Thursday evening, Jan. 26, the Southern Illinois Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby will celebrate this recognition with a public watch party, to be held at the Six Mile Regional Library downtown Granite City from 6:30 PM to

8:00 PM.

The Six Mile Regional Library is part of the Citizen Monitoring Network. The Library communicates the air quality by flying an air quality pennant and posting air quality information on their website. The Library supports many programs to improve the air quality in Granite City including Cool Cities and the Ozone Garden.



Citizens' Climate Lobby
Citizens' Climate Education



"At a time when many Americans despair about the partisan gridlock in Washington, CCL volunteers provide

hope by bringing Republicans and Democrats together to work on climate solutions," said Mark Reynolds, Executive Director of Citizens' Climate Lobby. "This episode of 'Years of Living Dangerously' highlights the work of Jay Butera, one of those amazing volunteers."

View a preview of the episode [here](#).

Citizens Climate Lobby works to build the political will for climate change solutions such as a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend system. Since the organization's 2007 founding, it has empowered ordinary citizens to hold direct meetings with congressional representatives, local officeholders and business leaders, and other influential stakeholders as they make the case for fair, effective climate action.

The episode, featuring celebrity correspondent Bradley Whitford (Josh on "The West Wing"), will be preceded by a message from special guests, including members of the "Years of Living Dangerously" cast.

Pizza and soda will be provided.

WHO: The volunteers of the Southern Illinois Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby and the Six Mile Regional Library and anyone interested in climate change.

WHAT: Viewing party for "Years of Living Dangerously"

WHEN: Thursday, January, 26, from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

WHERE: Training and Events Room (basement), Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, IL 62040

CONTACT: Ronald G. Trimmer, CCL Chapter Chair, RonGTrimmer@gmail.com, 618-604-6216 cell

Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with others.



**Plan Now For Day of Discipleship
WORKSHOPS FOR CHURCH MEMBERS**

PURPOSE: To take home an abundance of information to experience wonderful worship.

SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy

WHO: Interested Church Members
Youth and Youth Leaders
Council/Consistory/Committee Members
Church Officers, Delegates
Christian Educators

WHEN: Saturday, February 25, 2017
9:30 am - 2:00 pm (Registration begins at 9:00 am.)

WHERE: St. Paul UCC,
330 N Buhrman St, Nashville, IL 62263

Cost: \$35 (\$30 for Early-bird payment by February 7, 2017)

[Flyer](#) Cover [Letter](#) [List](#) of Workshops Registration [Form](#) & Map to Nashville
DOD Bulletin [Insert](#) Complete [Packet](#) Register [Online](#)

4 Tips to Keep Your Composure

by Deaconess Nurse Ministry

These tips were given to help you through the holidays, but they can help year-round.

1. Dose Your Day with Humor

Humor, by its nature, provides instant distance, balance and perspective, if even for a moment. As long as it's not aimed at mocking others, it allows us to step back and take everything, including ourselves, less seriously. So practice the art of finding the ludicrous, paradoxical and nonsensical in daily events. And laughing itself is priceless. A belly laugh changes biochemistry and clears out emotional gunk like little else.

2. Throw Something Out Every Day

Useless clutter is another low level, subliminal stress-producer. And we all know how quickly a clean surface can attract overwhelming piles of stuff. If you commit to throwing out one or two things a day, it really helps. And if you're one of those people who need to see your papers spread around you as you work (I am), just contain the surface area you allot to this!

3. Practice Staying in the Moment

By mindfully going about your day, putting your awareness into what you are doing at the moment, you will be using even mundane, everyday activities as the focus of meditation, and simple as it sounds, you will regain peace and balance. Yes, peeling potatoes can be a route to spiritual attainment and inner peace!

4. Notice Little Moments of Beauty and Sweetness

This sounds hokey but it works. Notice beauty around you and take a moment to breathe it in. . . . same with a smile, a gracious act, a loving gesture. Practicing gratitude for these lovely bits and pieces of daily life is a potent way to de-stress, and it's contagious, too.



A Ministry of Illinois South Conference
of the United Church of Christ



Internship - What's the Next Step?

The Outdoor Ministry Internship at DuBois Center is geared towards careers in faith-based camping, but in some ways it can be whatever the intern makes of it (as long as they have a passion for camp and service). One of our current interns, Leah Juenger, has made her time as an intern part of her journey towards becoming a certified yoga instructor. Leah started her personal yoga practice in college, as a way to reduce her stress level. It also helped her to find some inner peace among full class loads and demanding extra-curricular activities. About a year into her personal yoga journey and a few months into her internship at DuBois Center, Leah realized she had a passion for helping others find inner peace and a deeper sense of the Spirit through yoga. She utilized part of her intern training fund to assist with the cost of a first level yoga instructor course. She then brought her passion back to

DuBois Center - offering yoga as an activity option for summer campers and retreat participants. Leah's studies continue as she works toward her 200-hour RYT (Registered Yoga Teacher) Certification. She is on schedule to complete this certification in March, shortly after she finishes her internship with DuBois Center. Leah plans to stay near the area after finishing this certification with the hope of teaching yoga at a studio or fitness facility. She also hopes to continue sharing her love of yoga at DuBois Center, even after her internship is complete.

"A future awaits those who seek peace." Psalm 37:37b



Sneak Peek SUMMER CAMP 2017!

"Though the weather outside is frightful..." visions of water games and campfires dance in our heads as we plan another incredible summer at DuBois Center! Registration opens February 15, so watch for the brochure earlier that month. Use this [schedule](#) to begin planning your summer

now! Stay up to date by checking our [Facebook](#) page or emailing us with questions at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.



HIGH SCHOOL WEEK June 18-23

One week, two great options: Wranglers and X-Plore! All the favorite DuBois Center activities plus MORE! More fun, more adventure, more friends, with an extra special treat - more meals served in the Rustic Village. And



FATHER-SON RETREAT

March 31 - April 2

Here at DuBois Center, we are busy planning our spring schedule. Fathers, sons, grandpas, grandsons, uncles and nephews, mark your calendars for our annual Father-Son Retreat. There will be fishing, archery, horseback riding, campfires, worship and more! Don't miss this opportunity to get away and spend some quality time with a special guy in your life. All ages are welcome! Watch for registration information.



Here's a Thought!

Here's a Thought!

Utilize this retreat as an extension of your family or men's ministry. Recruit a group from your congregation to attend. Engaging faith focus times will be woven throughout the weekend by Rev. RJ Morgan, our chaplain for this retreat.



PHONE NEEDED

Unfortunately last fall our host cell phone met the lake, and after a lengthy stay in a bag of rice, the lake won. We are currently on the hunt for a gently used Verizon flip phone that doesn't require a data plan. If you have one that you would like to donate, contact DuBois Center at

dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



FURRY FRIENDS

A question we get asked a lot is, "What do you do with the horses in the winter?" The answer is that the horses do most the work themselves! Horses possess many adaptations to help them stay comfortable in even the most extreme conditions. For one, you might notice that our horses become considerably fuzzier as the days get shorter. This winter coat helps to insulate them from the cold as well as holding oil that repels moisture. Internally, the metabolism of horses acts to heat them from the inside out. As long as the horses have an adequate supply of hay and grain (which we provide), they do not suffer from lower temperatures. Short bouts of physical exertion, such as bucking and running as well as shivering, also help to heat up muscles and stabilize internal temperatures. Our pastures, likewise, act as natural shelters with many low lying areas to block wind and numerous stands of trees help to provide shelter from precipitation. When the temperature drops significantly or it becomes wet and windy, we open the barn for additional shelter and feed the horses extra grain. As for the three barn cats, they are also furry and warm, and find lots of hay in the barn loft to snuggle up in.



CHHSM News

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Neighborhood Houses is holding a job fair on Sat, Jan 21 from 10 am - 2 pm. The job fair will take place at Caroline Mission Early Childhood Education Center located at 2828 Caroline Street, St. Louis, MO 63104. Neighborhood Houses will be conducting interviews on-site for positions including full- and part-time Early Childhood Education Teachers, part-time Program Assistants (School year and Summer), accountant (CPA preferred), and an HR Generalist! Click [here](#) for more information.



LIFE at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis is a program that invites women and men to embrace lifelong learning and faith exploration. It challenges participants to become disciples, faithful witnesses to the gospel, and faithful members and leaders of the church. Each program consists of two courses, and participants may register for either course. There are no prerequisites. Other highlights include:

- Five regular session offerings each academic year
- Course topics range from Old Testament, New Testament, Evangelism, Ethics, and more
- Courses are taught by world-renowned Eden faculty instructors
- Six hours of theological engagement per session
- Worship, meals, and instruction included in registration (\$130 per person, \$140 with lodging)

Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Or contact Jill Schantz at jschantz@eden.edu or by calling 314-918-2554.

2017 LIFE Schedule

Recommended Reading: White Rage by Carol Anderson, Ph.D.

Jan. 13-14, 2017

Certificate: God Revealed in Scripture: Biblical Theology, Rev. Dr. J. Clint McCann

Elective: In our Midst: Ministry to those Struggling with Addiction, Rev. Peter Maffly-Kipp

Feb. 17-18, 2017

Certificate: Shaping Faithful Worship: Worship and Sacrament, Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy

Elective: Scripture studies, book of Matthew, Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore

April 7-8, 2017

Certificate: The Church is a Learning Community: Christian Education, Dr. Mai-Ahn Tran

Elective: The Sacrament of Baptism in our Spiritual Lives Today, Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister, Missouri Mid-South Conference



Back Bay Mission Opens 2018 Mission Trip Calendar

Back Bay Mission's 2018 mission trip calendar opened at midnight central time on January 1, 2017. You can reserve your mission trip week by emailing the Mission's volunteer coordinator at volunteercoordinator@thebackbaymission.org. The Mission accepts reservation requests only through email. The 2018 calendar is available on the Mission's [website](#).

Back Bay Mission is now accepting applications for the 2017 Shari Prestemon Social Justice Internship!

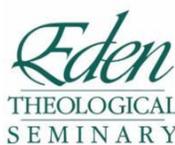
The Shari Prestemon Social Justice Internship provides people between the ages of 19 and 35 with a unique opportunity to participate in a 10-week summer program tailored to their interests. Drawing on the Mission's long experience in community engagement and advocacy for justice, the internship will nurture participants' passion for social justice and develop their appreciation for the church's role in seeking social justice.

Applications must be submitted by March 1. Notifications will be made by March 31.

You can learn more about the internship and download an application on the Mission's [website](#).

Bracke Lecture: Embracing Hope's Challenges Feb 10, 2017 Wehrli Chapel at Eden Seminary.

Speaker Reverend Dr. Luther E. Smith Jr. Hope's challenges for living into beloved community both guide and intimidate us. We come to realize how hope makes transformational demands upon our faith and love. Still, the spiritual practices for becoming people and congregations of hope are readily available to us. The lecture focuses on embracing hope's challenges and the spiritual practices that are essential to any future worth anticipating. Visit www.eden.edu to learn more and to register.



Seminary Sunday: Feb 26, 2017 On Seminary Sunday your congregation joins with other UCC congregations across the country to celebrate, explore, and recognize the value of theological education. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate Eden Theological Seminary's long and rich history as well as its bright future as we strengthen the life of the church by educating women and men for ministry, enlivening critical reflection on faith, and supporting bold Christian discipleship. At Eden, we are proud that more than 80 percent of Eden alumni serve alongside your congregations in parish ministry and church leadership positions. Visit www.cueseminaries.org to learn more.

Spring Convocation: Christian Faith and our Religious Neighbor, April 18-19, 2017 Speakers include Dr. Dale Bishop, Dr. Damayanthi Niles, and Dr. Paul Knitter.

Kindercottage continues to make plans for our April 1 "Night at the Improv" dinner theater featuring the Paper Slips Theater group. This lively and unique show appeals to people of all ages. You can save by buying 8 tickets, fill a table and have a wonderful multi-generational outing. Tickets are \$40 each, or save by purchasing 8 for \$300! Sponsorships are also available. Call 618-874-6505 for ordering information.



What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

The next gathering of the Pastors/Spouses Fellowship will be on Thurs, Jan. 26 at the Red Apple in Maryville at 11:30 am. We cordially invite those who have come regularly and any others who would like to share in the warm fellowship this "without-any-responsibilities" get-together provides for a meal. To make reservations, please contact Herb & Bennie Schafale at 618-476-3925 or herbenne@wisperhome.com no later than Jan. 22.

Region 2

BUNCO NIGHT - February 4
SAVE THE DATE - Join Region 2 for an evening of fun and fellowship. This fun dice game is so easy to learn, anyone can play! Doors open at St. Paul UCC in Columbia at 6:30 pm on Sat, Feb 4; the game will begin at 7 pm. Cost is \$10 per person. 50/50 drawing and silent auction. Snacks and soda available for purchase. All proceeds go to support DuBois Center. Check out this [flyer](#). Advance tickets are available.

Region 3

Job Opportunity: St. John Evangelical United Church of Christ in Collinsville, IL is looking for a person to lead the music program for our Sunday school children (session at 9 am and 10:30 am) and teach a short Sunday school lesson to children in the 10:30 session. Hours are 8 am to 11:30 am on Sunday mornings throughout the school year. Pay rate is \$10/hour. Contact Christy at 618-420-2608 or wsp13@sbcglobal.net.

Region 4

Carlinville St. Paul UCC will hold a **Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup Supper on Sat, Jan 28 from 4 pm - 7 pm**. All you can eat. Adults \$8; Children \$4. Proceeds go toward their kitchen fund. RSVP to the church at 217-854-4046.

Region 5

Job Opportunities: Evangelical UCC in Highland is looking for 2 full time teachers for their Wee Care Day Care. Interested candidates must have 60 hours from an accredited college including 6 hours of child care courses. Benefits available include health, vision, and dental insurance; paid vacation, sick time and holidays. Please contact Karin at 618-654-6647 for more information.

Evangelical UCC in Highland will hold a Chili Cookoff on Sun, Feb 19 from 11 am - 2 pm. Prize for the best entry. Proceeds go to Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Help them feed the children of East St. Louis.

Region 5

Alhambra Salem UCC will hold its **69th Annual Whole Hog Sausage Supper on Sat, Jan 28 from 2:30 pm - 8 pm**. All you can eat. Menu includes fresh homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, bread, applesauce, dessert, coffee and milk. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 10 \$5; Children 4 and under Free. Carry-outs adult price only. Advanced sausage orders available for link or bulk sausage, backbones, and ribs. Place orders at 618-488-3733 or ooey5@agtelco.com. Pick up orders on Thurs, Jan 26 or Sat, Jan 28.

Region 7

Region 7's Irvington Food Pantry is getting very low, especially on the home items, such as toilet paper, shampoo, cleaning items, baby items, plus meat and canned meat. We need everyone's help.

Region 9

Christ UCC in Belleville will hold its 38th Annual Wurstmart on Sun, Jan 29 from 11 am - 4 pm. All you can eat! Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, applesauce, coffee or tea, and dessert. Adults \$11; Children ages 6 - 9 - \$5; Carry outs available! Contact 618-233-1962.