

Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 12, 2017 - February 18, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Still having website issues...Sorry!!

We discovered that our website had malware. In order to rid it of that malware, we had to take it down and clean it up. Hopefully, it will be back soon. If you have always printed the Weekly Connection from the website, please call 618-654-2125 and ask Christy or Lynnette to email the printable copy to you. **Sorry for the inconvenience.**



DON'T AUDIT YOUR FAITH LIFE

Several years ago, I did something I had never done. I audited a class. I saw a class that was of great interest to me that was being offered at a university and I decided to audit it. The theory of auditing a class is that you get all the benefits of having access to the material being covered in the course without the benefit of a grade or credit for a course.

At first, I hesitated in signing up wondering if I really had time to commit to the work. Yet, when the registrar's office explained that if I audited the class there would be no quizzes, no tests, no attendance requirements, and no class projects-I signed up on the spot. Sure, I had to pay for the class, but this seemed like a small investment for what I was hoping to gain in the class.

I have to admit when the first assignment was given and I realized I wouldn't have to spend my entire weekend writing a paper I was ecstatic. I felt like I had won the lottery. It seemed like the perfect scenario. I could soak in the experience and knowledge without the hard work. Until I realized how difficult it was to get what I really wanted out of the class.

The truth was I wasn't fully invested. As the weeks went on, I was tempted to skip class because it seemed I had more pressing things to do, and it didn't matter because I wasn't getting a grade or a credit towards a degree. In addition, it felt like I was standing on the sidelines. Yes, I was doing the reading, I was taking notes, but I wasn't involved in group projects; I didn't get to present my papers or share my ideas.

In the end, I realized that because I did not have the same level of commitment and investment in the class as the other students did, I was the one who was losing out. I didn't learn as much and I did not benefit from the learning community nor did they benefit from what I might have contributed.

The truth is, at one time or another, all of us have had that attitude toward the Christian life. We want to audit the course work; we don't want tests; we don't want hardships; we don't want obligations or responsibilities; we want to show up when we choose. Yet, then we wonder why it is not clicking for us, we are not growing or really benefiting from the Christian community.

Why? Because the truth is that, just like anything in life, anything worth having takes work. Jesus knew this and he wanted his disciples to fully understand the commitment it would take to follow him and be one of his disciples.

Consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 16: 24-25 "24Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

When Christ invites us to a life of discipleship, it is a life of learning, exploring and putting in the hard work of living out our faith. Don't audit your faith. Be fully committed. For if you do you will discover the rewards of true discipleship.

Blessing, Shana

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[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](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

[ISC Directory](#)

Pray for...

Prayer list for

Feb 12 - Feb 18, 2017

Churches & Pastors

- Maeystown St. John UCC, Rev. Patrick Poole
- Marine UCC, Rev. Phil (Santee) Kershner

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana

My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

February 12

Worshiping at Zoar UCC, New Hanover

February 19

Worshiping at St. John UCC, Fairview Heights (Service of Farewell for Rev. Jim Nolan)

Bill Whicher will be worshiping at St. John UCC, Trenton and participating in the Service of Farewell for St. John UCC and Rev. Mark Stryjak.

Preaching at the Installation of Rev Jerry Bennett at St. Peter UCC, Hookdale

February 26

Participating in the Installation of Rev. Rebekah Rathman-Wingrove, Fieldon UCC
I am currently planning my worship schedule for May 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

Faith Formation for Clergy and Lay

You are invited to an experiential learning event sponsored by the Faith Formation team of the United Church of Christ on March 29. Discussions about **intergenerational ministry** abound in our churches today and studies show the importance of positive intergenerational relationships on the faith formation of our children and youth. Yet churches are finding that building these intergenerational relationships is easier said than done. This event, Logos, will introduce you to a program designed to create intergenerational relationships in your church as well as teach your kids Bible study and worship skills.

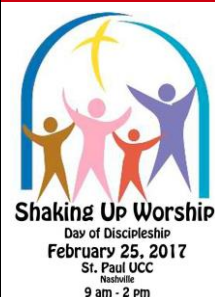
LOGOS - is a weekly intergenerational experience for young people that creates an arena where all ages, together, can learn about, experience, and practice the art of Christian relationships, critical for developing life-long disciples.

At this Inspiring Model of Ministry you'll participate in an evening of Logos at St. John's United Church of Christ in Chesterfield, MO and then have a chance to reflect on what you experienced, have a chance to ask questions of the Logos' leaders, and ruminate on how you might bring this innovative practice back to your own ministry setting. This event is not primarily designed for clergy. Your church could send children's ministry/youth faith formation staff or volunteers to experience the retreat and report back on the experience.

Cost for the event is \$25 per person and dinner is included. A limited number of scholarships are available to help defray travel costs for the event. For more information and to register, click [here](#). If you have other questions please contact me at beckwithi@ucc.org or at 216-736-3875.

Hope to see you in Missouri on March 29. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

Rev. Ivy Beckwith, UCC Faith Formation Minister and Team Leader



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 from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

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](#)

Retired Pastor

- Rev. John and Shirley Trnka, Newburgh, IN

People with Life Concerns

- Keep Dorothy Edwards in your prayers as she deals with health issues. Dorothy is a member of the East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and the mother of Pastor Norma Patterson.

- Please pray for Amy (Altenbaumer) Dillon as she deals with serious health issues. Amy is the sister-in-law of Amber Rhodes, ISC Region 6 Convener. Amber is asking you to send prayers for Amy to Amber Rhodes, PO Box 1533, Centralia, IL 62801 and she will pass them along to Amy.

- Keep Rev. Marvin (Dorothea) Engelsdorfer in your prayers as he deals with health issues. Rev. Engelsdorfer has been very active in the Conference and his son, Rev. Ted is also a pastor. Cards may be sent to him at 122 Wild Rose Dr, Belleville, IL 62221.

- 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 continues treatment. He is dealing well with treatment, but prayers are always welcome. Cards may be sent to him at 2921 Moniteau, St. Louis, MO 63121.

- 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

DuBois on Broadway 2.0 "Notes"

As announced earlier, DuBois Center will host their 2nd DuBois on Broadway Gala on May 12, 2017 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Fairview Heights. More details will come.



Here are some updates:

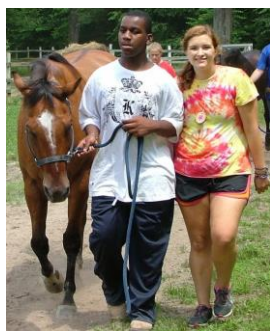
- We are pleased to announce that the world-renowned singer, Christine Brewer, will be part of the entertainment on this special evening. How fortunate we are that she could share her talents with the Gala attendees despite her busy touring schedule!
- Packets of relevant information seeking musicians, volunteers, donations for the silent and oral auctions, etc. have now been mailed/hand delivered to the ISC churches. We ask each church secretary to be looking for the packet and distribute the information to the appropriate people as directed. Thank you in advance for your assistance.
- Invitations will be sent out soon to the churches and individuals on our mailing lists.
- Remember, this is a significant fund-raiser for DuBois Center with proceeds going to help finance continuing deferred maintenance projects and specific programming equipment. Therefore, your support for DuBois on Broadway 2.0 (in any way) is greatly appreciated. *(Just a note-Friday, May 12th is part of 2017 Mother's Day Weekend. Attending may be a good gift idea).* Stay "tuned" for additional details, but save the date of May 12, 2017.
- Any questions, please contact Rick Porter, Rev. Jerry Amiri, and/or Norma Borgmann.

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

DuBois Center News

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



Buddy to Buddy Mission Experience - July 5-7

This close-to-home mission trip offers teens the opportunity to "live kindness, do justice and walk humbly." Youth encounter God as they participate together with young people from the Hoyleton Children's Home as they swim, create cool crafts, play games and more! Buddies walk hand in hand with their biblical "neighbors" and practice sincere acceptance and respect. Daily reflections and prayer times focus on diversity, justice and our role as Christians. Click [here](#) to learn more or contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

DuBois Center on Fire?!

Recently, Earth Care volunteers and staff scorched sections of DuBois Center property - no, this wasn't an accident. It may sound and look destructive, but controlled burns can be good for the environment. With the amount of leaves that fall in our deciduous oak forest, the surface burns will be a relative ease.

Recent controlled burns in and beyond main camp rid the forest floor of potentially dangerous leaf litter and promote growth of native species - including the endangered Buffalo Clover. Continued seasonal burning over the next few years will provide healthier ground for our many oak trees, and allow them to reproduce and continue to thrive.





Your Trash, Our Treasure

Silly hats, sparkly vests and goofy puppets are always a fun addition to skits, photo booths, announcements, and other dramatic activities at camp. DuBois Center is on

the look-out for costume items (boas, hats, jewelry, glasses, vests, western gear, etc.) to build up our prop collection for summer camp, Nature's Classroom and retreats. If you have some gently used, fun items you would like to donate, contact DuBois Center at program@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

SUNDAY FUNDAYS April 2 and 30

Escape to DuBois Center for a Sunday Funday. There's something for everyone, and all the activities are FREE!

Enjoy a leisurely drive in the country, a spring day by the lake and a good meal with friends and family. Our meal is optional and reasonably priced, but you are welcome to bring a picnic instead. Visit the horses and ride one in the arena. Cruise the lake in a pontoon boat, roast marshmallows, tour the facilities, and enjoy other family-friendly activities. Never been to DuBois Center? A Sunday Funday is a great introduction. There are even orientations for parents and prospective summer campers scheduled for both days.



SCHEDULE

- Meal: Noon - 2pm
- Activities: 12:30-3:00pm
- Summer Camp Orientation: 2:30-3:30pm

Here's What's Cooking:

April 2

- Hearty turkey dinner with salad bar

April 30

- Pork Steaks with "think summer" picnic trimmings and salad bar

Meal reservations are due **by noon the Monday prior.**



Here's a Thought!

Let us help you with a fun and easy church outing. Get a group together, rent a bus or organize a carpool; then enjoy a great afternoon together at DuBois Center. Even consider moving your worship service outdoors on one of these days, and utilize our beautiful lakeside chapel or labyrinth.



Father-Son Retreat

March 31- April 2

Get the guys together for DuBois Center's annual Father-Son Retreat:

fishing, hiking, canoeing and just hanging out together. Make cool wood crafts, share in vespers, work on your archery skills, and join in on the

"fellow"-ship. Horseback riding is available for an additional fee. All ages are welcome, though activities are geared for boys age 5 and older. Families participate together. For more information, check out this [flyer](#). Register by mail now or online beginning February 15. Early Bird deadline is March 10.

SERVICE SATURDAYS

March 25 & April 22

DuBois Center needs YOUR TLC! Spend quality time with your family, friends, youth or fellowship group and make a big difference! We've got engaging projects for all ability levels and you'll leave camp with a real sense of satisfaction! For more information check out this [flyer](#). Lunch is provided, so please RSVP to DuBois Center at or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



Why International Staff?

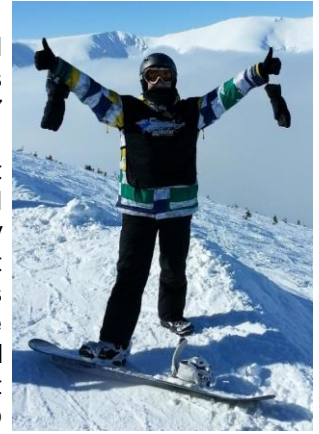
Each summer, DuBois Center recruits 4-6 international staff members. Recently they have come from countries such as Australia, England, Kenya, New Zealand and Scotland. Oftentimes, with their cool accents and fresh perspectives, these staff members quickly become popular with our campers. But why international staff? Because it is important for our campers and our local staff. We believe having counselors from other countries teaches our campers about other cultures and how to make meaningful connections with people who are quite different from themselves. We believe it helps our local staff experience multicultural communication and form global friendships. We consider hiring international staff as an integral and important part of our summer camp program.





Meet our Summer Staff!

Oftentimes, due to the visa application process, international summer staff are hired long before our local summer staff. This week, we would like to introduce another of our 2017 international staff members... Mikolaj Badziag from Pelplin, Poland! Mikolaj will be serving as a Counselor/Activity Specialist and could not be more enthused at the prospect, "For several days, I do not think about anything else but this." Mikloaj currently lives in Warsaw where he is a law student and a legal assistant at a law firm. He is passionate about youth ministry. In his hometown, Mikolaj is active in his church, leads events for the youth, and is involved in a prayer group. He has also volunteered as a tutor for children who live in poverty. Mikolaj believes, "it captures the whole self to work with children" and is excited to bring his passion for youth and ministry to DuBois Center this



summer. He accepted our invitation because of his love for working with God and in God's name - a great match with our mission. In his free time, Mikolaj enjoys football, sailing, swimming, kayaking, snowboarding, theatre and cooking.



CHHSM News

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Hoyleton Ministries has initiated a strategic realignment of its corporate structure allowing it to more efficiently and effectively serve the children and families of the 55 Illinois counties in which Hoyleton fulfills its mission. Effective Feb 1, Hoyleton Ministries, Hoyleton Youth and Family Services and Puentes de Esperanza will operate under the name of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services (HYFS). The principle elements of the new corporate structure will allow Hoyleton Youth and Family Services (HYFS) to:

- Continue to function as a ministry related to the United Church of Christ (UCC) and in accordance with the faith and principles of the UCC.
- Provide, in the compassionate spirit of God as expressed through Jesus Christ, for the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of children, youth, families and others in communities in which it serves, including the Latino community and other vulnerable communities, in order to assist them in reaching their full potential.
- Develop programs and services such as information and referral advocacy, translation and interpretation to underserved populations.
- Promote cross-cultural awareness and competence in communities of southern Illinois.
- Hold, administer, use and apply the funds and properties received by HYFS, as a trustee create, establish, manage and support trusts, endowments, and appropriate income and principle for the benefit of HYFS or any of its affiliates.
- Own, lease, transfer, sell, dispose or deal with all property, used in furthering the mission of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.
- Solicit and receive gifts, contributions, bequests, and other form of real or personal property from individuals, foundations, partnerships, associations, governmental agencies, and public or private corporations.

"We are making these fundamental changes in corporate structure so Hoyleton Youth and Family Services is in a better position to carry out our mission, practice better stewardship of time and resources, and continue to develop and support the best possible staff we can find," stated Rev. Mike Southcombe, Chair HYFS, "This change facilitates the combining of resources, allowing the organization to serve its mission to the youth and families in a more efficient and effective manner."

"I am excited to lead Hoyleton through the next phase in its transformation," said Chris L. Cox, President and CEO of HYFS. "This operational realignment along with initiatives of our new strategic plan will help accelerate growth in Hoyleton's innovative methods by which we provide community based services. We can utilize our strengths, to strategically focus assets on cross-company goals of providing compassionate behavioral health services and advocacy to the most vulnerable communities."

Since the first child walked through the doors of the children's home in 1895, Hoyleton has helped children and families grow and realize the wholeness of life as God intended. Today, HYFS serves more than 2,500 individuals annually in 55 Illinois counties. HYFS assets exceed \$12 million and employ more than 263 employees on an annual basis. HYFS provides residential and transitional living programs for youth and young adults, foster care and adoption services, prevention programs, and through Puentes de Esperanza we are able to offer translation, counseling and behavioral health education to Latino communities.

Great fun for a great cause! Neighborhood Houses' 7th Annual Trivia Night will be held on Sat, April 22 at the Sunset Hills Community Center, 3915 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Louis. Doors open at 6 pm. Trivia Starts at 7 pm. Beer, wine, soda, and water provided. Feel free to bring snacks and adult beverages! VIP Table Sponsorship - \$350 per table includes one table of 10 players, display of logo and/or name at event, and priority seating; table service; special VIP party basket; two tickets per person for attendance prizes. Attendance cost 10-Person Table - \$300 per table. Sponsor a Round! - \$150 per round. 10 sponsorships available, display of logo and/or name at event. Sold out in 2015 and 2016! Click [here](#) to register. Click [here](#) for flyer.



The 36th Annual Rural Ministry Conference presented by Wartburg Theological Seminary will be on March 5-7, 2017 at the Best Western Plus Hotel, 3100 Dodge St, Dubuque, IA from 3 pm on March 5 to noon on March 7. Keynote speaker is Dr. Val Farmer; Bible study leader is Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson; Plenary speakers are Mary Swander and Jean Sullivan; Workshop leaders are Amy Larson, Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell, Carol Stufflebeam and Elan Hacker. 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

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

Click [here](#) for February brochure.

March 10-11, 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

Click [here](#) for March brochure.

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 is now open. 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](#).



CUPIDS, CONFECTIONS, CONVICTIONS

Love and murder are in the air at St. John's Community Care. With the anticipation of Valentine's Day we are preparing for our mystery production: "It's My Party and I'll Die If I Want To" Fundraiser. It will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at Faith Hall - St. John Evangelical United Church of Christ. A fun afternoon filled with lots of surprises! Be prepared to laugh along while you enjoy the show, chocolate confections and decadent desserts. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. and the show starts at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase at St.

John's Community Care, 222 Goethe Avenue. Tickets are \$25.00 each. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

If you would like to make a donation of a restaurant gift card, bottle of wine (\$20 min.) or prize, please contact Missy at mathmer@stjohnscc.org.

St. John's support groups provide opportunities for families and friends caring for an aging loved one to discuss their concerns and uncertainties, as well as find resources to help regain a sense of balance and hope. We also provide information about helpful coping techniques and resources to make your job as caregiver a little less stressful. The sessions allow you to listen and discuss common issues with the group, leaving you with more understanding and a sense that you are not alone. There is no charge to attend.



Family Caregiver Support Group- Collinsville - Wed, Feb 8, 5:30 - 7 pm. This support group is intended for family caregivers caring for loved ones with any type of disability. Includes a light complimentary dinner. Sessions are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Complimentary care for loved ones is available with a reservation. Call 618-344-5008.

Alzheimer's Support Group- Collinsville - Tues, Feb 14, 1:30 to 3 pm. Sessions are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Complimentary care for loved ones available with reservation. Call 618-344-5008.

Family Caregiver Support Group - Edwardsville - Wed, Feb 15, from 6:30 - 8 pm. This support group is intended for family caregivers caring for loved ones with any type of disability. Sessions are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month. For more information call 618-656-7090.



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 Pastors/Spouses Fellowship meets on Thurs, Feb 23 at 11:30 am at the Red Apple in Maryville. This group of mostly retired folks warmly welcomes new attendees. To sign up to come, please call Herb & Bennie Schafale at 618-476-3925 or email them at herbenne@wisperhome.com.

Chili Cook Off to Benefit Kindercottage

Date: Sunday, February 19th, 11 am to 2 pm. Setup for contestants is 10:30 a.m.

Place: Fellowship Hall, Evangelical United Church of Christ, 2520 Poplar, Highland, IL.

Cost: Entry for chefs, \$10. Guests: \$2 tasting kit, \$3 bowl, \$10 VIP bowl.

Purpose: Kindercottage is an important landmark Preschool that has been in East St. Louis for over 50 years. Brenda Crisp and staff need our aid now to replace monies lost from the State and Illinois South Conference's balancing its budget. Illinois South Conference challenges the churches to continue to donate directly to Kindercottage. Please help us publicize this event every way you can. We promise great food, great fun, and great mission.

Contact: Lynn Beil, Missy Loyet, or Kay Ahaus at 618- 520-1790 or kayahaus@yahoo.com

Sponsor of the event is the Mission Board of Evangelical United Church of Christ. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

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 (services at 9 am and 10:30 am) and teach a short

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

Region 7

St. Peter's UCC in Okawville will hold its WURST MARKT on Sun, Feb 12 at their Educational Building from 3 pm - 7 pm. All you can eat pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, pie or dessert and drink.

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

The Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ invites you to the installation of Pastor Rebekah Rathman-Wingrove on Sunday, February 26 at 3 pm at the Fieldon United Church of Christ in Fieldon. Everyone is welcome. Authorized ministers are invited to participate in the service. Participating pastors should robe and wear red stoles and arrive at the church one-half hour before the service.

Region 5

Friedens UCC in Troy will hold its Sausage & Kraut Dinner on Sun, March 12 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm. Menu includes buffet style grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, applesauce, coffee, tea, & dessert. Dine-In Adults: \$10; Children 5-10 yrs. \$5; 4 yrs & under free. Carry-Outs & Curb Service \$10. Call 618-667-6535 for Curbside Service.

St John UCC in Breese will be holding their omelet breakfast on Sun, Feb 19 from 7:30 am until 12 pm. All you can eat including omelets, pancakes, bacon, sausage and drink. Adults \$8; children 4-11 \$4; and children 3 and under are free. For more information, call 618-526-4319.

health, vision, and dental insurance; paid vacation, sick time and holidays. Please contact Karin at 618-654-6647 for more information.

Summerfield Lions Club presents its 4th Annual Trivia Night to benefit St John UCC in Summerfield on Sat, April 8. Doors open at 6 pm and play starts at 7 pm. Silent auction, 50/50 raffle, bake sale, and lunch available. Drinks must be purchased there. Cost is \$100 per table with a max of 10 per table. Contact Mindy Schiefer at 618-444-2852 or Barb Baer at 618-795-0746.

Region 6

The Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ invites you to the installation of Rev. P. Jerry Bennett on Sunday, February 19 at 3 pm at the St. Peter United Church of Christ in Hookdale. Everyone is welcome. Authorized ministers are invited to participate in the service. Participating pastors should robe and wear red stoles and arrive at the church one-half hour before the service.

Region 7

St. Peter's UCC in Okawville will hold a Puzzle Party on Sun, Feb 26 from 2 pm - 4 pm at their Educational Building. Each team will be given the same 300 piece puzzle. The first team to get their puzzle completed will be the champions. Prizes. \$50 per team of up to 6 people. There is a maximum of 25 teams so register soon. Register by Feb 19 at 618-521-0561. Proceeds will help the family of Kolby Bowers, who is a kindergartener and is undergoing treatments for a Medulloblastoma brain tumor.

Adults (13 & up) \$11; Children (6-12) \$5; Children 5 and under - Free. All carry outs \$11. (4 links of sausage per carry out) Place meat/sausage orders by Feb 5, to Melinda Albers at 618-243-5354.

Region 8

Trenton St. John UCC will hold its first annual drive-thru chili dinner on Sat, Feb 18 from 11 am to 3 pm - or until the chili is gone. Hot and regular chili will be available for \$5 per quart. Call 618-224-9828 for questions/information.

Sat, April 22, 2017 from 9 am - 2 pm, St John UCC in Mascoutah will hold its 38th Annual Quilt Show with 200+ quilts. Bed turning at 9:45 am; quilting demonstrations at 10:45 am, 11:30 am, 12:15 pm and 1 pm. Items for sale. Raffle prize drawing for the youth quilt, "Secret Life of Pets" with all proceeds donated to DuBois Center. Raffle tickets available at the quilt show. Attendance prizes awarded. Lunch available. \$3 admission. Contact Kay Ostrom at 618-566-8776 or ostromdk@charter.net.

Region 9

Trinity UCC in Belleville will hold its 28th annual Chicken & Dumplings Dinner on Sun, Feb 26 from 11 am - 3 pm. All-you-can-eat menu includes homemade chicken and dumplings, corn, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, roll, tea or coffee and dessert. Adults \$9; Children 5 - 12 \$4; Children 4 and under free. Drawing for quilt and 2 shams, Bakery, boutique, and baskets. [Flyer.](#)

Instruments of Faith will lead worship at St. John UCC in Fairview Heights on Feb 26 at 10 am. Join us for some old-time gospel music as well as new gospel selections. This talented men's quintet has been singing praise since 2000.