

Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 26, 2017 - March 4, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of ISC...

A special thank you to the families, students, churches and individuals of the Southwestern School District who have donated funds and food for the Pack-A-Sack (also known as the TWIGS) program. The Loyal Daughters Ministry of St. John's United Church of Christ in Brighton, in conjunction with the Brighton Ministerial Alliance and School District, collects and organizes monthly packing sessions. The staff at the school district distributes the bags weekly to children

who are eligible for free and reduced lunch and have signed up for this additional support.

The Southwestern Pack-A-Sack program provides a weekend supply of nutritious food for children when school lunch and breakfast is unavailable on a weekend or school holiday. Each food bag contains 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 snacks, and a dairy item and 1 can of fruit. All food is nonperishable and provided to children free of charge. It is our hope these resources will support the health, behavior, and achievement of every student that participates.

The support from the community has been tremendous. Recently they had members of the Life Skills Class purchase food and assemble 100 bags as part of their Life Skills learning. There were also members of the local Tiger Scouts group along with other volunteers come and assemble over 400 bags in less than an hour. Donations collected by various classes, the fire department and at local sporting events have also helped keep our supplies well stocked. We are beginning our second year of offering Pack-A-Sack in the school district and the community support has grown tremendously.

If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact Rev. Laurie Crelly at St. John's United Church of Christ for more information. 618-372-3737.



"Scorpion Brain"

I once read a parable about a holy man who was practicing his morning meditation under a tree whose roots stretched out over the riverbank.

During his meditation, he noticed that the river was rising, and a scorpion caught in the roots was about to drown.

He crawled out on the roots and reached down to free the scorpion, but every time he did so, the scorpion struck back at him, trying to sting him.

A man passing by stopped and said to the holy man,

"Don't you know that's a scorpion, and it's in the nature of a scorpion to want to sting?"

The holy man replied, "That may well be, but it is my nature to save, and I will not let the scorpion's desire to hurt, change my desire to help."

I have been thinking about this parable and how it applies to this time in the life of the Church and to this time in the life of the nation and the world. More than ever before, I am hearing pastors and lay persons lament about the reality that they are experiencing a lack of basic civility and kindness in their congregations. As a whole, most of us can affirm there seems to be a higher level of unrest, intolerance, and even cruelty swirling around us.

What is the reason for this? Well, I think it is simple; it is our primal instinct to fight back. Scientists often explain this with the colloquialism of the "lizard brain." The lizard brain refers to the oldest part of the brain, the brain stem that is responsible for primitive survival instincts such as aggression and fear. When we are responding out of our "lizard brain" (or perhaps as it relates to the story above we could call it our "scorpion brain") our basic instinct is to strike back and try to sting

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 26 - March 4, 2017

Churches & Pastors

- Mascoutah St. John UCC,
Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz

- Metropolis Zion UCC

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Fred and Shirley
Wehrenberg, Columbia IL

another. If someone lashes out, we lash back. If someone hurts us, we will seek to hurt him or her in return. Thus, things get uncivil and unkind.

Yet, the bigger question is do we have to be ruled by this primal instinct? Well, Jesus didn't think so. Jesus believed we could work out of a higher calling. (Scientists might name this higher calling as working out of our limbic system, which is a higher brain function in which relationships, and emotional bonds are considered.) Jesus believed and taught that we could live at a higher level of response--a more Godly response, which is simply to love first.

If we are to take the teachings of Jesus seriously and seek to live them out, we are making a commitment to change our nature so that it might more fully reflect the nature of God. That commitment is to be loving, compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Imagine how different our families, our churches, our country, our world would be if we all chose like the holy man in the parable to not allow the "scorpions" around us to change our desire to help or to be more holy, more God like.

Imagine. It would be a challenge, but certainly a challenge worth taking. Let us not allow the "scorpions" of the world to change our nature as Christ followers. May our nature be to save, to be of help, and to live out the love and mercy of God each day. Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana

My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

February 26

Preaching at the Installation of Rev. Rebekah Rathman-Wingrove, Fieldon UCC

March 12

Worshiping at St. Peter's UCC Stone Church

March 19

Worshiping at St. John's UCC, Midway

March 26

Worshiping at First Congregational, Dupo

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

Deadline for UCC Yearbook Statistics Approaches - March 8

Illinois South Conference churches have always had 90+% of the churches turning in their membership, attendance, financial and ministerial support information each year. We're hoping you will be one of those churches to do just that. **If you plan to do it online, the drop dead deadline is Wednesday, March 8.** After that, online will be locked. It is difficult to know who has done it online unless you send us a report or just a note to say it is done. Atta-girl or Atta-boy for those who have already sent their reports! If you haven't yet, we know you will soon. Thanks so much. Lynnette.

Last Chance to Register for Day of Discipleship!

Sign up NOW! SHAKING UP WORSHIP!!

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

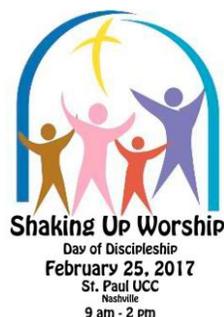
Church Officers, Delegates

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



People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for the family of Rev. Dr. Marvin (Dorothea) Engelsdorfer as they mourn his death. Rev. Engelsdorfer served as pastor of St. Paul UCC in Belleville and St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville before his retirement. He was the father of Rev. Ted (Kristina) Engelsdorfer who has served several churches in Illinois South Conference and is a member of the ISC Church & Ministry Church Committee. Memorial services are being planned for the future.

- 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.

- 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 home, 618-853-4075, or on his cell at 618-792-5491.

COST: \$35

[Flyer](#) [Cover Letter](#) [List of Workshops](#)

Registration [Form](#) & Map to Nashville

DOD Bulletin [Insert](#) Complete [Packet](#) Register [Online](#)

Save the Date!

Pastor Rosemary Captain will be ordained on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 3 pm at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon.



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

DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



Meet Our Summer Staff

Our first local staff member has been hired! Welcome Ryan Brennan to 2017 summer staff. Ryan is from Columbia, IL and was raised in the St. Paul UCC church in Columbia. He was first introduced to DuBois Center through his church at the young age of 5 years old. Ryan continued to attend camp growing up. In 2013, he volunteered at DuBois Center and last year dedicated his whole summer to being on Summer Staff. He has decided to make a return to summer staff in 2017 because "It seems every time [he goes] to DuBois, [he] learns something new." Ryan also loves the experience of connecting with others spiritually through DuBois Center and hopes to give campers the same type of experiences he had as a camper. In the real world, Ryan is a student at Illinois State University where he studies Computer Science and Music. In his free time, he enjoys composing music and playing drums, ukulele and piano. Ryan also enjoys beatboxing and running. **Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.**



Service Saturdays March 25 & April 22

Painting, carpentry, raking, deep cleaning and more are needed at



DuBois Center! Come get a little dirty, spend quality time with friends and family, and gain a sense of satisfaction at our Service Saturdays. For more information check out this [flyer](#). Lunch is provided, so please RSVP to dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.



Father-Son Retreat Mar 31-April 2

Calling all dads, lads, granddads, uncles, and nephews! Mark your calendars to join us for the annual Father-Son Retreat. RJ Morgan will be leading us in worship as we spend time with just the guys. We'll be making wood crafts, fishing, horseback riding, playing a round of gaga, trying our hand at 9-square, practicing our archery skills, and, most importantly, hanging out together. Early bird deadline is March 10, so [register](#) now! Check out the flyer [here](#). **Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.**



2017 Summer Staff

DuBois Center is searching for fun-loving and faith-focused individuals to serve on our summer

staff! Join other young adults as we spend a summer serving our campers amazing outdoor ministry experiences. Ride the horses, swim in the lake and help campers to grow in their faith journeys! A summer on DuBois Center staff can be life-changing and, for many staff members, is the best summer of their lives! For more information, check out this [flyer](#), our summer camp employment [page](#), or contact the DuBois Center office at program@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.

Have Fun Servin' the Herd!

Do you have experience working with horses? Do you enjoy working in the great outdoors? Apply NOW to be a member of the DuBois Center barn staff team this summer. We are searching for horse-loving, hardworking, dedicated individuals to be members of our "barn crew." Barn coordinator and barn assistant positions are available. For more details, see [here](#). Sound interesting? Click [here](#) for application packet. **Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.**





Sunday Fundays April 2 & April 30

Join us for Sunday Afternoons filled with family-friendly fun! Visit the horses and ride one in the arena, cruise the lake in a pontoon boat, play a round of Ga-ga ball, roast marshmallows and tour the facilities all for FREE! Our meal is optional and reasonably priced, but you are welcome to bring a picnic instead. Never been to DuBois Center? A Sunday Funday is a great introduction. There are even orientations for

prospective summer campers and their parents scheduled for both dates.

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**.

Your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.



CHHSM News

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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.



United Church of Christ Scholarship online applications open until March 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. Apply now!

The UCC has a wealth of scholarships for individuals in the denomination who are engaged in education, leadership, and ministry.

Scholarships are currently available in the following areas:

Ministry Education Scholarships - Application closes March 1

Scholarships for those preparing for ministry in the UCC and for support for ministers in financial or personal crisis.

Leadership Development Scholarships - Application closes March 1

Scholarships that help to support UCC undergraduate students, future seminary professors, African-American laywomen, and gifted persons with disabilities, among others.

Our online Scholarship application process is safe, secure, and user-friendly!

The Genesis Fund - Application closes March 15

The Genesis Fund will accept applications for faith-based projects that are innovative or experimental, represent a new initiative in Christian mission, or that may be deemed controversial. Funds are available for domestic and international projects. UCC local churches, associations, conferences, national bodies, UCC-related institutions, and overseas/global partner UCC churches are eligible to apply. Questions? Email: scholarships@ucc.org

LIFE at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis is a program that invites women and men to embrace lifelong learning and faith exploration. 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

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



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! - Applications due March 1

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



Kindercottage

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.

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

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Job Opportunities:

Evangelical UCC in Highland is looking for a teacher's aide for their Wee Care Day Care. Please contact Karin at 618-654-6647 for more information.

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 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.

Job Opportunity: St. John UCC in Granite City is currently seeking a part-time Church Office Financial Secretary to work two five-hour days for a total of 10 hours a week. The pay will be within the range of \$12-13 per hour.

Duties: Prepares checks for payroll and bills; enters weekly contributions to an accounting system; maintains payroll and tax records; prepares quarterly tax reports; prepares Annual Giving Reports

To apply, send resume with a cover letter to: St. John UCC, 2901 Nameoki Rd, Granite City, IL 62040. ATTN: Personnel Committee or to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com. No phone calls please. Reply by March 1.

Job Opportunity: St. John UCC in Granite City is currently seeking a part-time Church Office Clerical Secretary to work three six-hour days for a total of 18 hours a week. The pay will be within the range of \$12-13 per hour.

Duties: Answer phone calls and take messages; maintains and files all correspondence; types all correspondence, reports and etc.; maintains and distributes all incoming mail; monitors and orders supplies as needed; oversees

maintenance of office equipment.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to: St. John UCC, 2901 Nameoki Road, Granite City, Illinois 62040. Attn: Personnel Committee or to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com. No phone calls please. Reply by March 1.

Region 4

The 11th Annual Shrove Tuesday "All You Can Eat" Pancakes & Sausage Supper will be on Shrove Tuesday, Feb 28 from 4 pm - 7 pm, at St John UCC in Wood River. Meal includes pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee, tea or milk. Adults \$8; Children 6-10 \$4; and Children 5 and under are free. Carry-outs available. Handicap accessible.

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.

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 5

Immanuel UCC in Hamel will host its Family Style Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 19 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm. Adults \$10; Children 6 - 9 \$5; Carry outs \$10. Quilt raffle. Church is located 1-1/2 miles south of Hamel, 5838 Staunton Rd, Edwardsville.

The Salem UCC, Alhambra Mission/Stewardship Committee will be hold a Mission To Go Barbecue on Sat, March 25 from 11 am-3 pm. Dinner includes: barbecued pork steak, homemade potato salad, homemade cole slaw, homemade pork/beans, bread, and dessert. Proceeds support the Tosagua, Ecuador Mission Trip on July 8-17 and the Exhale Youth Mission Trip. Carry Out; Drive Through; Dine in.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, April 29, Marine UCC Trivia Night benefiting Hoyleton Youth & Family Services. Mark your calendars, more details to come!

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. Call 618-521-0561 to see if space is available. Proceeds will help the family of Kolby Bowers, who is a kindergartener and is undergoing treatments for a Medulloblastoma brain tumor.

Region 8

Friedens UCC of Marissa will host a Women's Pre-Lent Breakfast the Sat, Feb 25 at 8:30 am. Starting with a brief service in the sanctuary, the ladies from area churches will gather for a free breakfast and fellowship. It is an ecumenical event and welcomes all women.

Region 8

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 ostromdk@charter.net or 618-566-8776.

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.

Concordia UCC will hold its All-you-can-eat Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Feb 25 from 7 am - 10 am. Adults \$8; Children \$5; and Under-5 free. There will also be a bake sale. (We are located 3 miles north of Millstadt on State Route 163)

The Belleville St. Paul UCC Fine Arts Committee presents Spring Forward Dance on Sun, March 12 from 3 pm - 5 pm. Relax with the vocals of Bob Artime. Music, light refreshments, friends. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased on Sundays or at the church office 618-233-3303. Proceeds benefit music scholarships.