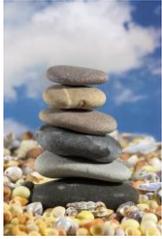


Weekly Connection

For the Week of March 19, 2017 - March 25, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Small Stuff...

Last week my oldest daughter called me in a panic about a paper she had to write for a philosophy class. She was experiencing a bad case of writer's block. I tried to talk her through one of the concepts she was supposed to address in the paper.

Although she was patiently listening to me, I could tell she was not really engaged in the conversation. I finally asked her, "Honey, what's really going on?" She burst into tears. After her initial questioning why anyone would need philosophy, she finally got to the heart of the matter. She admitted she was overly tired because she had over committed to a bunch of small things. At the time, they did not seem like much, but now the small things were big things that were overwhelming and weighing her down.

I then shared this story with her...

"A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mason jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, rocks about 2" in diameter.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was, but still laughed. The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

'Now,' said the professor, 'I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things - your family, your friends, and your health - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your apartment or house, your car. The sand is everything else. The small stuff.

'If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks.

The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

For the purpose of answering her question of "Why anyone should have to take a philosophy class?" I shared with her that philosophy is an important and valuable intellectual exercise because it challenges one to get clear about their guiding principles, values, why we believe what we believe and consider how our life does or does not reflect these beliefs. (I will shamelessly admit that one of my first concerns was how to motivate her to begin and finish the paper that was due the next day.) Yet, more importantly, it gave us an opportunity to talk about the small stuff of life.

For most of us, the small stuff builds up, takes over, and consumes the majority of our time and energy. The small stuff fills the spaces in our lives and can squeeze out the more important things. Thinking of sand as the small stuff of life, think about what sand can do. Sand can bury a car, a house, or a person. Grains of sands are small, but when they are combined with a larger number of other grains of sand, it is a force to be reckoned with. Sand irritates and can be painful. Have you gotten sand in your eyes? It is not a pleasant thing!

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana –

My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

March 15 - Wednesday

Worshipping at St. Jacob UCC

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[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
March 19 - March 25, 2017**

Churches & Pastors

- New Baden Zion UCC, Rev. Gretchen (Paul) Sterrett
- New Hanover Zoar UCC, Rev. R. J. (Lisa) Morgan

March 19

Worshiping at St. John's UCC, Midway

March 26

Worshiping at First Congregational, Dupo

April 2

Worshiping at Immanuel UCC, Hamel

April 5 - Wednesday

Preaching at St. John UCC, New Athens

April 15 - Saturday

Preaching at Region 8 Easter Vigil Service, St. Paul, Lebanon

I am currently planning my worship schedule for July 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

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Arnold and Luetta Bizer, Lake St. Louis, MO

People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for Nancy (Rev. Robert) Tripp as she deals with serious health issues. Cards may be sent to her at 9008 E South Circle Dr, Effingham, IL 62401.

- 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.



The Website Is Coming Back!! Every day, more things are being added. Check it out first to find the answer to questions that may come up. www.iscucc.org
Your OCWM monies at work.



INSURANCE BOARD
Partners in Protection

Insurance Board Offers Free Webinars

Do you know the legal implications if your church wants to be a sanctuary church for at-risk immigrants?

Heather Kimmel, General Counsel for the United Church of Christ, addresses the current interest of faith communities in operating as sanctuary churches, the legal risks, and ways churches can minister to undocumented persons.

This information is relevant and timely for all UCC, Disciples of Christ (Christian Church), Presbyterian Church(USA) and Alliance of Baptist churches. Everyone is invited to attend.

Tues, April 18 at 2pm EST. Click [here](#) to find out more and to register.

Your OCWM monies at work.

Send Your Yearbook Info to Lynnette before March 22

Online yearbook entry for churches is locked, but still open for the Conference. Send your information to lschuepbach@iscucc.org or 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249 and Lynnette will enter it for you. 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.



The "DuBois on Broadway 2.0" Invitations are in the Mail

Invitations and ticket order forms to the encore evening of food, music, auctions, and fellowship to financially support DuBois Center on Friday, May 12 are now available. If you have not received an invitation in the mail by the end of this week and want one, contact Norma Borgmann at nborgmann1658@charter.net or 618-292-4617 for immediate delivery.

Several churches have been sent extra copies of the invitation and ticket order forms.

There are also some available at the Illinois South Conference office and DuBois Center or by tickets on-line.

If individuals and/or church groups wish to donate silent auction baskets or items, contact Norma Borgmann before April 28 for inclusion in the program book and/or for pick up arrangements. Thank you in advance.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Four Points by Sheraton Conference Center in Fairview Heights on May 12 to benefit DuBois Center and enjoy a special evening out during the Mother's Day weekend. If unable to attend, you may still show your support of this significant fund-raiser by providing a monetary donation with indication on your check or credit card transaction. Proceeds from the Gala are for on-going facility and program improvements at DuBois Center. The Outdoor Ministries Team greatly appreciates your interest and support of DuBois Center, the camp and retreat center of Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.



SUNDAY FUNDAYS - April 2 & April 30

Join us for a Sunday afternoon 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! A yummy, reasonably-priced meal is available - but optional. You are welcome to bring a picnic instead or pick up something on the way. Never been to DuBois Center? Sunday Fundays are a great introduction. There are even orientations for prospective summer campers and their parents. Click [here](#) for a flyer to share and post.

Schedule

Meal: Noon - 2 pm

Activities: 12:30-3:00 pm

Summer Camp Orientation: 2:30 - 3:30 pm



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.

Looking for a great event for your church family? Consider car-pooling to a Sunday Funday and participating together. You can even reserve an outdoor worship space or the labyrinth for a morning or afternoon service. Your ministry... in the outdoors!



Here's a Thought!

Your OCWM monies at work.



MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Introducing Meredith Ellis, one of our returning Counselor/Activity Specialists! Meredith grew up in Glen Carbon, IL and is an active member of Troy United Methodist Church. She first came to DuBois Center for summer camp with a friend, when she was in the sixth grade. She instantly loved it and returned year after year as a camper. In 2013, she participated in our CIT (Counselor in Training) program and then volunteered

the next year. She dedicated the summer of 2016 to serving on our summer staff. She has "wanted to be a counselor ever since [she] was a camper" and had an amazing experience in that role last summer. She is looking forward to "being back in such a beautiful place" and seeing her past campers again! Meredith's experience, beyond camp, includes working with family programs and teaching youth tennis lessons at the YMCA. When not at camp, Meredith studies Political Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. At school she is a student worker at her university library and is involved in campus ministry, a campus sexual assault education program and Alpha Delta Pi. In her free time she likes to read and drink tea. Welcome Meredith to our 2017 summer staff team!



Your OCWM monies at work.



EARLY BIRD DEADLINE Wednesday, April 5

Just three months from today, the first week of summer camp at DuBois Center will be in full swing! It's time to THINK SUMMER! Register for 2017

Summer Adventures by the Early Bird Deadline and save \$20 on full-week sessions and \$10 on part-week sessions. Completed registration (online or by mail) and non-refundable deposit are required for this discount. View the brochure [online](#) or [download](#) it along with a registration [form](#). You may also contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 to receive these by mail. **Your OCWM monies at work.**

SPREAD the WORD

There are some easy ways to help spread the word about DuBois Center and our programs.

- Include a link to www.DuBoisCenter.org on your web site.
- Encourage your members to add us as a friend on Facebook or follow us on Instagram.
- Promote events, such as Sunday Fundays, on your church sign board.
- Print, cut and stuff our [bulletin inserts](#) - there are two.

Your OCWM monies at work.





**WRANGLE & RIDE
Saturday, April 22**

Corral your friends for a horse-intensive day at DuBois Center! Wrangle & Ride is for pony enthusiasts age 12 and older. Groom, tack, ride and enjoy other horse-themed activities from 9 am - 5 pm. The cost is \$60 (or \$55 if registered by April 1 - the early bird deadline); lunch is included. To ensure more time in the saddle, space is limited to the first 12 registered. Click [here](#) for a flyer and reservation form or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

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

SPRING BROCHURE

Spring is a great time of year at DuBois Center! So much to do... and there's still time to get involved. Check out our Spring Brochure for information about the upcoming Father-Son Retreat, Service Saturdays, Sunday Fundays and more. Click [here](#) to view the brochure and a reservation form, or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 to receive these by mail.

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



"SECRET LIFE of PETS"

Another amazing Quilt from Mascoutah Max and Duke are looking for a home! Each spring, the Happy Quilters of St. John UCC in Mascoutah sponsor a Quilt Show. It is quite the event with over 200 quilts on display and an old-fashioned "bed turning" demonstration. Another highlight is the drawing for a very special youth quilt (60" x 74"). All proceeds from ticket sales for this quilt, plus a matching gift from the church, go to support the ministry of DuBois Center. Tickets are now on sale - \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Print this [form](#) and follow the directions included, or catch up with the quilt at a local church. It will be traveling with dedicated volunteers to different UCC churches. Check the "Region" section of Weekly Connection for details on 38th Annual Quilt Show.

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

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!



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries



The St. Louis Association Women UCC is having their annual Spring Pilgrimage on Monday, April 24, 2017 and would love for you to attend! Join the ladies at Neighborhood Houses' Early Childhood Education Center at Caroline Mission and help with a variety of volunteer work, enjoy some delicious lunch, and end the morning with a worship service. Click [here](#) for more information and how to register. Please contact Nancy R Emmert at 314-522-3718 with any questions. Reservations are due by April 14, 2017.

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

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



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 Grantfork UCC Mission and Membership committee will be hosting a 145th church anniversary coffee and cake hour after worship at 10:15 am on April 2. We cordially invite all of the past confirmands of the church to attend the service and plan to recognize them during worship. Please spread the word to any confirmands that you may know. We will be treated to a special performance of the children's choir as well. Contact the church office at 618- 675-2595 with any questions.

The next meeting of the Pastors/Spouses Fellowship will be on Thursday, March 23 at 11:30 am at the Red Apple in Maryville. Regular attendees and other retired folks are welcome to come, enjoy conversation and a nice meal. The fellowship is good indeed, and it's a great opportunity to keep up with news about other clergy and spouses in Illinois South. Please email or telephone your reservation to Herb & Bennie Schafale at 618-476-3925 or herbenne@wisperhome.com.

The United Church of Christ Musicians Association National Biennial Conference will be on July 9 - 12, 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference will nurture, invigorate, and inspire. Housing, workshops, and conference rehearsals will be held at Simmons College, located in the Fenway neighborhood, steps away from the historic Museum of Fine Arts and Fenway Park. Each night, attendees will experience one of Boston's historic churches in neighborhoods rich with the story of our nation, and led by a variety of ministers, musicians, and musical styles: The United Parish in Brookline, First Church in Cambridge, Old North Church in the North End, and Back Bay's Old South Church. Registration fees for UCMA members is \$375 by April 15 (\$425 for non-members) and \$425 after April 15 (\$475 for non-members). Daily registration is \$135. For more information and registration, click [here](#) or call Susan DeSelms at 617-277-6860, ext. 3.



The Faith Family of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Lebanon,
In Covenant with
The Illinois South Conference
Of the
United Church of Christ
Rejoices in inviting you to celebrate the
The Rite of Ordination into Christian Ministry
In the life of
ROSEMARY LORENZ CAPTAIN
Sunday, April 23, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
In the worship home of

St. Paul United Church of Christ, 123 East Dee Street
Dinner after by Reservation Only \$10/person
Call 618-537-4991 no later than April 17

The gift of your presence is all that Rosemary requests.
Should you desire to make a gift, please do so to:
DuBois Center.

All clergy who attend are encouraged to robe with RED stole. Click [here](#) for invitation.

Job Opportunity:

Friendly, outgoing church congregation is seeking a part time secretary, 20 hours per week, 8 am to Noon, Monday through Friday. Must be proficient in Office software, Word and Excel.

Duties include assisting the Pastor with daily tasks, preparing a monthly newsletter, weekly bulletin, answering phones, opening mail, monitoring church email, compiling monthly board reports, along with quarterly congregational meeting materials and annual conference reports, as well as managing other congregational needs. Please send resume to Rev. Douglas J. Seagle at Friedens United Church of Christ, 207 E. Center Street, Troy, IL, 62294 or call 618-667-6325.

Job Opportunity:

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:

Deaconess Nurse Ministry is looking for person that is passionate about compassionate healthcare for all to work 24 hours with donors and events. Send resume to dpupillo@faithnurses.org.

Region 2

St. Peter UCC in Red Bud will have a "Fish Fry" on Fri, March 24 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Menu includes jumbo cod, catfish cutups and chicken strips, German potato salad, American potato salad, stewed tomatoes, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, slaw, and French fries. Eat in or carry out.

Christ UCC in Dupou will hold its Chicken & Dumpling Dinner on Sun, March 26 from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm. Adults - \$9.50; Children 5 to 12 yrs. - \$4; Under 5 yrs. - Free. Dinner Includes: green beans, carrots, cole slaw, bread and dessert. Carry outs available. Call 286-4211 for deliveries!

Region 4

St. John's UCC of Midway will be holding an All You Can Eat Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 26 from 11 am until 3 pm at the Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Road, Edwardsville, IL (about 1 mile east of Edwardsville on Rt. 143). Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned green beans, corn, dinner salad, bread, tea and coffee. Adults \$9; Children 2 years to 12 years old \$4. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Carry outs available. Delicious homemade pies and desserts will also be available for purchase at the dinner. Contact the church at 618-377-9288.

St. John UCC in Wood River will have their annual "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish Fries on Friday, March 24, 31, and April 7 from 4 - 7 pm. Dinners include White Fish or Swai fillets, choice of 2 sides (potato salad, cole slaw and baked beans), white or rye bread, choice of dessert and a beverage. Adults \$9, Children 6-10 yrs \$5; and Children under 5 yrs free (dine-in only). Visa and Mastercard accepted, handicap accessible, carry-outs available.

Region 4

St. John's UCC in Brighton will hold their annual Friday Fish Fry - March 17 - April 7. (March 17, 24, 31, April 7). 11 am - 6 pm. Dine in or Carry out. Lunchtime deliveries to businesses and schools are also available. Call church for details 618-372-3737.

Region 5

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.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!

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

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.

Region 6

Carlville St. Paul UCC will hold a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Sun, March 26 from 11 am - 1 pm. Menu is homemade spaghetti and meatballs, side salad, applesauce, garlic bread, beverages, and homemade desserts. Sponsored by St. Paul's R & R Committee and the Senior and Junior Youth Groups. Adults \$8; Children 6 and under \$4. Carryouts available at adult price.

Region 8

Friedens UCC in Marissa will host their Wurstmarkt on Sat, March 18 from 3 pm - 7 pm. Menu is grilled whole hog sausage, homemade mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, sauerkraut, applesauce, milk gravy, drink and dessert. Adults \$10; Children \$5. Country store, handmade craft items, Handicapped accessible. Carryouts available.

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

BBQ at Concordia UCC, 3 miles north of Millstadt, on Sat, March 18 from 11 am - 3 pm. Menu includes pork steak, bratwurst, or hot dog plate, choice of 2 sides, desserts and drinks with each plate. There will also be a Quilt Raffle.