

# Weekly Connection

For the Week of April 9, 2017 - April 15, 2017  
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Rev. Shana Johnson,  
ISC Designated  
Conference Minister

## A LEGACY OF LOVE

In 2011, the Illinois South Conference received a bequest from the Marion Mittendorf estate that was to be used within a five year time frame. For many years, it was assumed that this bequest was only to be used to help those who had suffered from national disasters. However, recently, we in the Conference did some research to discover and clarify the parameters of the fund. Our primary goal was to honor the intentions and wishes of Marion and Richard Mittendorf in how they would have wanted the monies to be gifted.

With the help of legal counsel in going back to the last will and testament, we discovered two important things: First, the

highest priority of the Mittendorf fund was that the monies would be used for missions that supported children and families who were victims of natural disasters and those who were struggling because of crises and financial hardships. Secondly, that the Illinois South Conference was to serve in the role of being the executors of the estate, making sure that the money would be used to help those in the greatest and immediate need.

Thanks to Shirley Bergmann and Carol Faust, we also found in our files, sixty original letters Marion had handwritten to the Illinois South Conference that included instructions about how to use checks she had enclosed in the amounts most often of \$300 to \$500 for a variety of mission projects.

Here is just one excerpt from one of those letters that was included with her \$500 check.

*I hear the words of Jesus that remind me, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' I hope this gift will be able to help the littlest ones among us-the children. They are precious gifts from God. I am sure there are many, many needs. Thank you for taking care of this for us and please send it where the need is the greatest. May God bless you all as you labor for Him.*

*Yours truly,*

*Mrs. Marion M. Mittendorf*

In almost all of the letters Marion sent to the Conference with her financial gifts, she closed with some variation of these words...*Thank you for taking care of this for us and please send it where the need is the greatest.*

*Yours truly,*

*Mrs. Marion M. Mittendorf*

It became clear to us that Marion had entrusted us with the important work of using these monies where the need was the greatest. For many of us in Illinois South Conference the mission and work of Uni-Pres Kindercottage has been near and dear to our hearts. We, in the Illinois South Conference, clearly heard the many voices of those who have been deeply concerned that Kindercottage may not be able to keep their doors open due to the drastic cuts in government funding.

After prayerful discernment, conversations with those who knew Marion and Richard Mittendorf, and thoughtful consideration of how they would have wanted those monies to be used, we decided one area of greatest and immediate need in our community would be for the paying down of the mortgage of Kindercottage.



L to R-Rev. Bob Goddard, Chair of FMT; Brenda Crisp, Director of Kindercottage; Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

## Important Links

[iscucc.org/](http://iscucc.org/)

[duboiscenter.org](http://duboiscenter.org)

[ucc.org](http://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  
April 9 - April 15, 2017  
Churches & Pastors**

- Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC,  
Rev. Cynthia (Rev. Kerry) Bean  
- Plum Hill St. John's UCC, Rev.  
Don Jones

On Saturday, April 1, we made a special presentation at the UniPres Kindercottage fundraiser event announcing our intention. The Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ will be gifting \$100,000 out of the Marion Mittendorf fund towards paying off the Uni-Pres Kindercottage mortgage.

We are especially grateful to Marion and Richard Mittendorf whose generosity and faith outlived their lives. It is a testimony to the way bequests such as this leave behind a powerful legacy of love.

### SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

*A Note from Shana*

My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

**April 5 - Wednesday**

Preaching at St. John UCC, New Athens

**April 9**

Worshiping at St. John Evangelical UCC, Collinsville to welcome Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan

**April 15 - Saturday**

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

**April 23**

Participating in Rosemary Captain's ordination at St. Paul UCC, Lebanon

**April 30**

Participating in the Farewell Service for Pastor David Krueger at Concordia UCC, Belleville

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](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org). I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing in worship with you.

Blessings, Shana **Your OCWM monies at work.**

### Hunger Action Committee Workshop Series

At the ISC Annual Meeting in October 2015, the Hunger Action Committee shared the "good news" that 100% of churches in the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ are involved with food ministries. Many of these are local interfaith alliances. We have discovered that the food ministry leaders often do not hear about available funds and resources. Here's your chance to help these dedicated people share ideas to "feed hungry people."

On October 14, 2014, the Community Interfaith Food Pantry dedicated its new home at 1218 W. Main in Belleville. In the old facility, patrons were crowded out the front door. Volunteers ran into each other trying to navigate carts through the small rooms and the limited storage space filled up fast. Generous donors, their hard-working board and volunteers and a generous grant from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation made possible the current spacious facility in a visible and accessible location on West Main. The Pantry is open 4 days a week.

Who and what is the Feinstein Foundation and can you apply for a grant? Come to the workshop to learn more.

Community Interfaith Food Pantry is supported by Belleville-area churches: St. Matthew United Methodist; Our Lady Queen of Peace; St. Luke and St. Teresa Catholic Churches; Christ UCC, Trinity UCC and St. Paul UCC in Belleville; Westview Baptist; Peace and Signal Hill Lutheran Churches; and First United Presbyterian.

Food Ministry Leaders are invited to an information-sharing event sponsored by the ISC Hunger Action Committee on May 9 from 11:30 am - 2 pm at the Community Interfaith Food Pantry, 1218 West Main, Belleville. Lunch will be provided by Christ UCC in Belleville.

Please RSVP to Margie Lindhorst at [mlind@htc.net](mailto:mlind@htc.net) or 618-281-4090 to provide them with a head count for lunch. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



### Retired Pastor

- Rev. Linda and Bob Coulson, Palm Coast, FL

### People with Life Concerns

- Pray for the family of Rev. Arnold (Luetta) Bizer as they mourn his death. Rev. Bizer served as pastor of Alhambra Salem UCC prior to retiring and was currently Pastor Emeritus there. Funeral was held last Saturday. Cards may be sent to 602 Woodchuck Ln, Lake St. Louis MO 63367.

- Please pray for the family of Dale Mindrup, brother of Pastor John (Merrilee) Mindrup, as they mourn his passing. Dale was a member of Salem UCC, Alhambra where John currently serves as Associate Pastor. Funeral services for Dale were held last week. Cards of condolence can be sent to Pastor John & Merrilee Mindrup at 1117 W North St, Alhambra IL 62001.

- Pray for Kay (Bill) Ahaus as she deals with health issues. Kay is a member of Highland Evangelical UCC and a member of the ISC Justice & Witness Team. She also served as General Synod Delegate in 2015. Cards may be sent to 200 Rinderer Road, Trenton, IL 62293.

- 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.



### **Marion UCC Community Garden Supported by ISC Hunger Action Committee**

Spring is here, and Zion UCC - Marion is turning soil for the second year in its Community Garden. All the healthy produce goes to the Marion Ministerial Alliance which uses the vegetables in their food kitchen and food pantry. Last year's garden was blessed by the congregation at the beginning of planting, and it abundantly produced tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, salad makings, butternut squash and pumpkins.

With the first year kinks worked out, Zion plans to add another

bed this year to increase production and help feed their hungry neighbors in Marion.

The ISC Hunger Action Committee provided a grant for this garden and is ready to assist other ISC churches to begin their gardens. Contact Chair, Margie Lindhorst at [mlind@htc.net](mailto:mlind@htc.net) or 618-281-4090.

### **St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville Will Receive CASA of Southwestern Illinois Community Service Award at, "There's No Place Like Home - Ruby Slipper Gala."**

April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month. During the month of April, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Southwestern Illinois will host its, "There's No Place Like Home - Ruby Slipper Gala." The gala is slated for April 29 at 5:30 pm at the Four Points by Sheraton in Fairview Heights.

At the Ruby Slipper Gala, St. Paul UCC in Belleville will receive a Community Service Award, designating an exemplary individual or organization that directly supports the mission of CASA of Southwestern Illinois. The mission of CASA is to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children through collaboration with individuals and organizations. St. Paul UCC will receive one of this year's Community Service Awards for their unselfish and caring hospitality, as reflected by the use of facility for training, in services, etc. St. Paul UCC shows God's love to "broken children" through their community driven mission. St. Paul UCC in Belleville has led and contributed to many civic efforts. They include: establishing Belleville's first parochial school, singing society and library, creation of Memorial Hospital, Saint Paul retirement community, establishing the Franklin Neighborhood Association plus establishment and continuing success of the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.

Today St. Paul UCC conducts missions by sending youth and adult volunteers throughout the United States and Ecuador to build homes and renovate damaged buildings or through monetary contributions.

If interested in making CASA of Southwestern Illinois a mission of your church or purchasing tickets to the gala, call 618-234-4278.



### **Illinois South Conference Pastors Gathering**

Calling folks interested in good conversation and a good meal as the Pastors/Spouses Fellowship Group gathers on Thursday, April 27 at 11:30 a.m. at the Red Apple in Maryville. For being a group of mostly retired folks, we certainly have a good time together! Know that we welcome newcomers and familiar friends at any get-together. Please call 618-476-3925 or email ([herbenne@wisperhome.com](mailto:herbenne@wisperhome.com)) Herb & Bennie Schafale no later than April 24 to make reservations.

### **The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a summer semester online UCC History, Polity and Theology class beginning on May 31 and ending August 16.**

The class has met the polity requirements of most Committees on Ministry in the UCC, and has been accepted as a for credit course over nine seminaries, including Union (NYC), Vanderbilt, Candler, Columbia, Lexington, Eden, and Lancaster and a number of others. Both Lancaster and Union list this course in their catalogs.

It is a rigorous, engaging class that is convenient for those who are bi-vocational, have full schedules, or odd sleep habits! It is designed to meet the needs of students with different learning styles and varying levels of formal education. The facilitators for the class are fully engaged and available throughout the class to the students. The course has evolved and adapted over the years to the changes in the UCC and the changing needs of those seeking authorization for ministry.

Tim Downs, who will be the lead instructor, has been teaching this course for almost 20 years, and online for the last seven years. Heather Bardole will be the lead facilitator for the course. Heather has worked with Tim in facilitating this class for six years; is a MID with the Southeast Conference; and currently serves as the administrator of the Southeast Conference. Laura Robinson, a MID in the Pacific Northwest and a graduate of Candler School of Theology, will be the assistant facilitator for the class.

Students taking the class for credit need to contact Tim Downs. Certificates of Completion are issued for all students who successfully complete the requirements for the class. Letters with a grade and summary assessment of the student's performance in the class for Committees on Ministry are available upon request. Any questions can be directed to Tim Downs, the lead instructor, at [timothy.c.downs@gmail.com](mailto:timothy.c.downs@gmail.com) and click [here](#) to register.



## DuBois on Broadway - May 12

\*Reminder\*--tickets to the DuBois on Broadway 2.0 are available for purchase. For more information or tickets, please contact your church office; Illinois South Conference office at 618-654-2125 or its [website](#); DuBois Center office at 618-787-2202 or its [website](#); or Norma Borgmann at 618-292-4617; or register [online](#). Thank you to the generous donors of the silent and oral auction items, either notified or received. Below is a preview of donations that will be available for the highest bidders on Friday night, May 12 at the Four Points Conference Center in

Fairview Heights. We will add to the list of auction items as they come in.

**Oral Auction:** Get-Away Vacation at Lake of the Ozarks Resort Condominium; Home-cooked steak meal for 8; Original Springs Hotel Overnight/Meals in Okawville, Timeshare for a week to a chosen destination from available list; Singing telegram by Christine Brewer; Hand-created Cardinal theme quilt; 2 Reserved baseball tickets for Cardinals vs Kansas City game on August 10; Child-sized picnic table; 2 Adirondack chairs; Wooden rocking horse; Unique garden items' package/certificate; Rolling garden cart of beverages; and Sheraton Hotel overnight package.

**Silent Auction:** 3 Blessings' baskets filled with specific items; King-sized quilt/3 pillows-horses design; Strawberry theme basket; Garden theme basket; Wine bottle/glasses' holder; Fun pail for children; Female tote of Christian gifts; Oak leaves' special selections; 4 Seasons' Baskets; Christmas hand-designed wall hanging; and Assorted Baskets of gift cards.

There is still time to contribute either kind of auction items. Just contact Norma at 618-292-4617 or [nborgmann1658@charter.net](mailto:nborgmann1658@charter.net) before April 28 so the entry or entries and name of donor may be included in the Gala program book and to make arrangements for delivery or pick-up. Thank you in advance. Remember the proceeds from these auctions and chef-prepared meal on May 12 at Four Points will be applied toward the financial support of future major physical and programming improvements at DuBois Center.

## DuBois Center News

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



### FATHERS & SONS Pack the House!

This past weekend, 46 fathers, sons, grandfathers and mentors - hailing from 12 ISCUCC churches and beyond - made the trek to DuBois Center for our annual Father & Son Retreat. Together, pairs and trios explored the creek and the bottoms, built a geodome, and dismantled the old docks from the swim area. Some caught big fish, others lots of fish. Some hunted for dinosaur eggs; others used a bike pump to launch plastic bottles filled with water. There's more! Imagine... boat on the lake, cool crafts and a hay ride. Imagine... new friends, hikes and horseback rides. Imagine... campfires with singing, s'mores and quiet time for reflections. Now, imagine God

among us everywhere! Throughout the weekend, we explored Bible stories of the vine, the branches and bearing good fruit - bearing good fruit as positive role models, true friends and caring "neighbors." After a weekend packed with activities, good food, service projects, and rounds and rounds of 9-Square and Ga-ga, at our closing worship, the group was challenged to "get out of the Ga-ga pit" and go into the world and produce more good fruit.

**Your OCWM monies at work.**

## MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome back Kristian Avise-Rouse! Kristian is returning for his second summer as a Counselor/Activity Specialist. His home base is Columbia, IL where he is a member (and 'Pastor's Kid') at St. Paul UCC. Kristian attended summer camp and youth events at DuBois Center regularly while growing up. He attributes much of who he is to his weeks as a camper and his first summer as a counselor. Kristian's previous work with children and youth includes an internship with the Actor's Attic's Musical-in-a-Week program and various church activities. Currently, he studies nursing at Illinois Wesleyan University. He also runs for the school's cross country and track & field teams, sings in the school's choir, takes voice lessons, plays trombone for pep band and is involved in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Kristian's favorite part of summer camp is "the love!"



Kristian is amazed by the number of campers, staff and volunteers who "...bring and share so much love for one place full of amazing people." He says, "It truly is the happiest place on Earth (sorry, Disney World)!!" Kristian knows he will always cherish the memories, friendships and laughter of camp and is very excited to return. Kristian will be taking a short break from camp this summer to serve as one of your ISCUCC delegates to General Synod.

**Your OCWM monies at work.**

## CALLING ALL QUILTERS!

For over a decade, a quilt drawing has been a significant piece of the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival. In recent years, we have been blessed to have two or more art quality quilts each year which together have raised \$1500-\$2400 annually. The quilts are donated by local church quilting groups and other friends of DuBois Center. Specifications: queen-size, appealing to a wide audience and made with love and prayers. Ideally, the quilts begin traveling to local churches in August, so a July completion date works well. If you or your quilting group might be interested in donating a work-of-art quilt for the 2017 Fall Festival, please contact the DuBois Center office at 618-787-2202 or [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org). We'd love to talk to you about the possibilities.



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



## VOLUNTEER at Summer Camp!

Whether in a cabin, at the barn, in the health center, during specialized activities, on the Sunday Welcome Team or all around snapping photos of camper fun, volunteers make a huge difference at summer camp! They work hand in hand with paid summer staff to provide and support our fun, engaging, faith-filled program. To learn more about volunteer opportunities click [here](#) or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org). Use this bulletin [insert](#) to help spread the word!

**Your OCWM monies at work.**



## Volunteer NURSES Needed - Spend 3-6 Days at DuBois Center

Volunteer health care professionals are a key component of our ministry. Camp nurses tend to a variety of ailments - everything from fevers and sprains to ticks and rashes. They provide special attention when a camper needs a little extra TLC or just a break from the action. Theirs is a ministry of compassion, presence and healing. We are currently seeking volunteer nurses for this coming summer. The nurse's living quarters are air-conditioned, and there is often time to sit back and read a good book, take a hike or dip your toes in the lake. For more information about this ministry opportunity, contact Shirley at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.

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



## CARING for GOD'S CREATION

April 22 is Earth Day! What better way to celebrate than with a Service Saturday at DuBois Center?! Get outside with family and friends and help prepare this sacred space to welcome hundreds of campers and guests this spring and summer. Paint, prune, build, rake, clean, stack; there will be projects for volunteers of varied ages and abilities. We'll gather between 8:30 am and 8:45 am, and finish up around 4 pm. Lunch is provided. We try to plan projects based on the specialized skills our volunteers bring, so please **RSVP by Monday, April 17**. Use this [form](#), call 618-787-2202, or email us at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org). Supplies for general projects will be provided, but if you have specialized or professional tools/ equipment, please bring them along! For more information, check our [website](#) or this [flyer](#). **Your OCWM 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



**Hitz Memorial Home Blessings Benefit Concert is scheduled for April 23 at 3 pm at the Salem UCC in Alhambra.** Listen to excellent performances from area churches and Hitz Home residents. A blessings offering will be taken to help fund the third phase of the kitchen remodel consisting of a mobile island to be used by the residents daily. Come listen to the music!



**The Alzheimer Association presents Cardinal Reminiscence League, a session for people with early stage memory loss.** The Cardinals Reminiscence League is open to people with memory loss who would like to share memories about the Cardinals baseball team, learn about the team's history, and support the current team. New fans and those

who would like to socialize and learn more are welcome. Sessions will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at St. John's Community Care in Edwardsville from 10:30 am - 12 pm and are free. Call 618-656-7090 to learn more and reserve your seat. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

**St. John's Community Care presents Surviving Caregiving, an insightful conference designed for family caregivers who wish to gain valuable knowledge and resources that will help them navigate the maze of caregiving, on Sat, April 29 at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm.** Lunch is included. The keynote presentations are:

*Legal and Financial Issues* by Heidi Dodd, Attorney for Harter, Larson and Dodd  
*Medications - Benefits and Cautions* by Brad Rea, Pharmacist and Hospice of Southern Illinois, Pharmacy Fellow  
*Caregiver Tips to Make Your Life Easier* by Amy Sobrino, MSW Memory Care Home Solutions  
*Benefits of Therapy for Your Loved One* by Rehabilitation Professionals, Inc.

Click [here](#) for flyer. Call 618-222-2561 to register.



### Upcoming Events at Eden Theological Seminary

**LIFE at Eden: "The Church is a Learning Community" or "The Sacrament of Baptism in our Lives Today"**

April 7-8, 2017

Eden Seminary campus or via videoconference

Choose between two sessions. "The Church is a Learning Community" with the Rev. Dr. Mai-Anh Le Tran or "The Sacrament of Baptism in our Spiritual Lives Today" with the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, MO Mid-South Conference Minister. Visit the [website](#) to learn more and to register. Click [here](#) for a poster.

### Spring Convocation: Christian Faith and our Religious Neighbors

April 18-19, 2017

*Speakers include Dr. Dale Bishop, Dr. Damayanthi Niles, and Dr. Paul Knitter*

What does it mean to love our neighbors when our neighbors do not share our faith? How do Christians participate in a pluralistic religious world without denigrating the faith of others or denying our own? With "Christian Faith and Our Religious Neighbors" and in conjunction with the Armin and Shirley Limper Program in Christianity and World Religions, Eden Seminary brings together three leading scholars on Christianity and pluralism to consider these questions and re-imagine Christianity's relationship with other faiths. Visit [www.eden.edu](http://www.eden.edu) to learn more and to register.

**Spring Commencement** will be on May 19, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 826 Union Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108



**Deaconess Nurse Ministry** has been selected as one of four St. Louis nonprofit health organizations to benefit from the proceeds raised at the very popular Signature Foundation Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on April 24th, and we invite you to register for this fun and charitable outing.

**When:** Monday, April 24th, 2017

**Where:** Whitmoor Country Club - 1100 Whitmoor Drive St. Charles, MO

**Cost:** \$300 per golfer

**Volunteer Request:** Not playing? That's ok! We're in need of volunteers to help out at our booth and on the course. Please contact [Rev. Donna Smith - Pupillo](#), DNM Executive Director, to learn more.

For more information and to register to play, click [here](#).





Hoyleton Youth & Family Services shares this invitation with you to join us as we and the Fairmont City Christian Activity Center celebrate the opening of the Puentes/Hoyleton welcoming center on Friday, April 7 from 2 pm -



4 pm. The opening ceremony is at 2:30 pm. The new Fairmont City Welcome Center will assist individuals and families to access public benefits, referrals, interpretation, and additional services that are often difficult due to language and cultural barriers. We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate our newest ministry. Light refreshments will be served. Click [here](#) for more information.



### SPRING CLEANING DAY AT KINDERCOTTAGE

We invite you to join us on April 29 with your gloves, mops, buckets, rags, lawnmowers, trimmers, aprons and a sack lunch. We'll work from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. April brings new birth, fresh air, warmer weather and hopefully not too many showers. The building needs freshness and we'll give it that by cleaning windows, walls, floors, and bathrooms. Outdoors we'll pick-up, trim and cut. Do you have a paper shredder? There is a storage room with files needing to be cleaned, organized and files shredded. If you have a shredder, please bring it with you. Gather your mission groups, men's and women's fellowship members, confirmands and all others wanting to help.

## What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

### Job Opportunity:

A Coordinator of Christian Education is open at St. Paul UCC in Belleville. The job requires 25 hours/week and pays \$25,000 annually. Benefits are to be determined. The Coordinator of Christian Education helps plan, coordinate and implement Christian education and faith development programs for all ages according to the requirements of the Safe Church policy. Read [more](#). Contact Rev. Robert Koepcke at [rkoepcke@stpaulucc.org](mailto:rkoepcke@stpaulucc.org).

**Equality Illinois presents EqualityCon 2017 on May 6, 2017 in Springfield, IL at the State House Inn.** It is a one-day conference in Springfield bringing together the state's LGBTQ community with allies, progressive advocates, civic leaders and community groups. Speakers and panel discussions will cover a wide range of topics including adoption by LGBTQ parents, updating legal documents for transgender Illinoisans, LGBTQ rights in the schools, and much more. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

### Region 2

**Hecker Friedens UCC will hold its Good Friday Fish Fry on April 14 from 4 pm - 7 pm.** Eat in or Carry Out. Menu includes fried Cod fish, chicken strips available by request; homemade sides: French fries, potato salad, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, pie, cake, drinks. Worship service at 7:30 pm.

### Region 5

**Marine UCC will host the 16th annual Trivia Night benefiting Hoyleton Youth & Family Services on Sat, April 29.** Door prizes. Raffle. Cost \$12 per person, 8 players to a table, \$96 for a team/table. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place winning teams. Contact 618-887-4465 to reserve a table for trivia or purchase raffle tickets.

### VBS - May

**May 22 - 26;** 9 am - 12 pm; Waterloo St. Paul UCC; *Cokesbury's Super Hero Central*

### VBS - June

**June 5 - 9;** 9 am - 11:30 am; Fieldon UCC;

**June 5 - 9;** 9 am - 12 pm; Columbia St. Paul UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

**June 5 - 9;** 9 am - 11 am; Highland Evangelical UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

**June 5 - 9;** 8:30 am - 11:30 am; Valmeyer St. John UCC; *Maker Fun*

*Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

**June 10;** 9 am - 4 pm with Family Carnival from 4 pm - 6 pm; Belleville St. Paul UCC; Superhero theme.

**June 12 - 16;** 9 am - 12 pm; Maeystown St. John UCC; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God!*

**June 12 - 16;** 9 am - 12 pm; Freeburg St. Paul's UCC in cooperation with the St. Joseph Catholic Church in

### Region 4

**St. John UCC in Wood River will have their annual "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, 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 8

**The Congregations and Pastors of Region 8 of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ invite everyone to attend the Region 8 Easter Vigil Service of Word & Sacrament on Holy Sat, April 15 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon.** Rev. Shana Johnson, Designated Conference Minister of the ISC, will be the guest preacher for this wonderful service. Allow this Easter Vigil Service to transform the darkness of Good Friday into the Resurrection Joy of an Empty Tomb! Everyone is welcome here!

**St. John's UCC in Brighton will hold their annual Friday Fish Fry - 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

**Alhambra Salem UCC Exhale Youth Group presents Trivia Night on April 8 beginning at 6 pm. Doors open at 5 pm.** Silent auction, 50/50 and more. Prizes for winners. Soda & water for sale. Bring your own snacks. Players \$10 with 10/table. Contact Becca if you would like to donate to the Silent Auction or for tickets at [rjbraundmeier@gmail.com](mailto:rjbraundmeier@gmail.com) or 618-520-0185.

**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.

**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](mailto:ostromdk@charter.net) or 618-566-8776.

Freeburg; *Hero Central -Discover Your Strength in God!*  
**June 19 - 23;** 8:45 am - 12 pm; Mascoutah St. John UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*  
**June 19 - 23;** 6 pm; Dinner at 5 pm - 5:45 pm. Troy Friedens UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

## VBS - July

**July 10 - 14;** 9 am - 12 pm; Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC; *Rome: Paul and the Underground Church.*  
**July 17 - 21;** 6 pm - 8:20 pm; Red Bud St. Peter UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*  
**July 17 - 21;** 6 pm - 8:30 pm; O'Fallon UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*  
**July 24 - 28;** 9 am - 11:30 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Rome: Paul and the Underground Church.* Lunch at 11:30 am as part of the summer lunch program for kids through St. Louis Food Bank.  
**July 30 - August 3;** 6 pm - 8 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*