

Weekly Connection

For the Week of May 28, 2017 - June 3, 2017
 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of ISC....

As you recall, last week's "DuBois on Broadway" 2.0 article featured the 50+ volunteers whose help and time made the production of this significant fund-raiser a success.

Here are some relevant statistical facts:

- 252 plated/served 3-course meals were paid by attendees.
- 10 restaurant meals provided to the volunteers were donated.
- 13 different musicians and a sound tech shared their talents and time for the program aspect.
- 134 glasses of complimentary wine, donated by the Men's Fellowship and Women's Guild from Salem UCC Church in Alhambra; the Carpenters' Union Local #664; and Norma Borgmann.
- 93 silent auction entries totaled \$3,138 The lowest paid item was \$10 and the highest item brought \$85.
- 21 different oral auction entries auctioned by Cowboy Bob Kolweier totaled \$6,845, ranging from 2 items being bought at \$80 each to the highest selection receiving a \$1400 bid The item was 1 week's condo stay for 2 anywhere in the world as given by an anonymous donor. The winner hopes to go to Australia which is on her bucket list.
- \$3,597 collected for WOW, a new water mat and rope swing to enhance the waterfront at DuBois Center. However, additional donations designated for the new equipment will still be accepted. Make that notation in the memo line. The campers will be excited to use it.
- A new video about DuBois Center, designed by Mark & Debbie Beckmeyer, was premiered at the Gala and can be seen on the DuBois Center's [website](#).
- The entire evening's activities were listed via power point, created by Rev. Jerry Amiri, and shown on 2 huge screens.

If you were unable to attend or participate and wish to contribute, donations are being accepted by writing "Gala" in the memo line and pay to the order of DuBois Center. The profits from the Gala go to finance future property maintenance.

We are still finalizing the financial records which will be announced in the future, including the various sponsorship donations. Revised receipts are being prepared by the Registrar, Nancy Borgmann, and will be mailed soon.

We co-chairs, Rick Porter, Rev. Jerry Amiri, and Norma Borgmann, express our sincerest GRATITUDE to everyone who made "DuBois on Broadway" 2.0 a success. THANK YOU AGAIN!



A LEGACY OF LOVE CONTINUES...

As you might have read in the April 4, 2017 edition of the *Weekly Connection*, we in the Conference recently did some research and made some prayerful decisions about how a bequest would be used that was received in 2011 from the Marion Mittendorf estate. Marion and Richard Mittendorf were active members of St. Peter's UCC in Okawville. Their generous gifts over the years, helped fund

countless mission projects and disaster relief efforts.

Marion sent many checks over the years to the Illinois South Conference to be used for various mission projects. Each check was accompanied with a handwritten

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

May 28 - June 3, 2017

Churches & Pastors

- Addieville Zion UCC, Rev.

William Groennert

- Alhambra Salem UCC, Rev.

letter from Marion about thanking the Conference for "making sure the monies would be sent where the need was the greatest."

On April 1, at a Uni-Pres Kindercottage fundraising event, we announced the Conference would be allocating a good portion of the Marion Mittendorf estate to pay off the mortgage of Uni-Pres Kindercottage.

Just this past week, at a Community Gardening Workshop co-sponsored by the Illinois South Conference Hunger Action Committee and Good Shepherd of Faith United Church of Christ in East St. Louis, we were delighted to present the Hunger Action Committee with a \$10,000 check from the Marion Mittendorf estate. The monies will be used to not only fund current and future Hunger Action projects, but also for the Hunger Action Committee to be able to continue to offer scholarships to our local churches that have feeding missions and programs.

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

Photo: In the center are: Margie Lindhorst, member of the Hunger Action Committee and Pastor Norma Patterson holding the check that was presented to them by Rev. Shana Johnson, the Designated Conference Minister of the Illinois South Conference

Jerry (Carol) Amiri, Sr. Pastor
- Alhambra Salem UCC,
Pastor John (Marilee) Mindrup
Retired Pastor
- Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn,
Waterloo, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders as he continues treatment for ongoing illness. Douglas is currently the Interim Pastor for Belleville Concordia UCC. Cards may be sent to him at 2921 Moniteau, St Louis MO 63121.

- 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.

On Friday, May 19, Rev. Jeff Schwab, pastor of St. Peter's UCC in Okawville, and Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC's Designated Conference Minister were invited to help lead a spiritual retreat for the staff of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services at the Willoughby Heritage Farm in Collinsville.



For over 100 years, Hoyleton has been creating a better world for children and families. They were founded in 1895 as an orphanage by Zion United Church of Christ in Hoyleton (then Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church).

Now they have expanded their reach and mission through Residential and Child Welfare programs, Spanish-speaking services offered through Puentes de Esperanza, as well as programs in their Behavioral Health Division and their Preventative Services. For most who work at Hoyleton Ministries, it is not simply a job; it is a ministry and calling to serve southwest Illinois' most vulnerable populations.

The spiritual retreat was a day of acknowledging joys and challenges of the work to which they have been entrusted, as well as connecting with God's creation and one another for rest and renewal.

We, in Illinois South Conference, are grateful for all those who are a part of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services and the ways they make such a powerful difference in the lives of so many in our communities.

Photo: Chris Cox, President and CEO of Hoyleton Youth and Family Service and Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Designated Conference Minister

What Will You Wear?

Lately I have been thinking about the life lessons my grandmother taught me. Growing up, my maternal grandparents lived a block away from my childhood home. I was blessed with the gift of having their presence and influence in my life. Today my grandmother is 95, her health is beginning to fail. Yet, she possesses a resiliency and tenacity that I believe will be a part of her being until her last breath.

One of Grandma's life principles is you choose how you show up for life. Each morning, regardless of where the day would take her, she would arise, put on a nice outfit with coordinating accessories and jewelry, fix her hair, and put on makeup completed with lipstick. Grandma grew up in the depression, and she knew how to stretch a dollar. On a tight budget, she successfully made sure she always looked put-together.

In my teenager years, I did not understand the reason she seemed so fixated on how she looked. She would often remind me of the importance of "dressing your best for church" or "putting on a little lipstick" when I went out. At the time, I thought her motivating factor was vanity. Although, even then, I knew this did not make sense because she was also one of the most humble and generous people I knew. Even when my grandfather became very ill and my grandmother was his primary caregiver, she kept to her morning



routine. She'd arise each day, put on a nice outfit with coordinating accessories and jewelry, fix her hair, and put on makeup completed with lipstick. I remember once I asked her why she did this knowing that some days she did not even leave the house. Her response was, "I do it for me."

It was not until recently that I asked her what she meant by this statement. She explained, "When I put on a nice outfit, put on some nice jewelry, fix my hair and put on my face, especially on the days when I didn't want to get out of bed, it helps me face the day. When I clothe myself and put on my face, I feel different. I become a little different. I know I can face the day, whatever it may bring."

My grandmother's perspective and words reminded me of something Lauren Winter wrote in her book *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God*, "I become professional or hip, depending on what I am wearing. I feel different when I am wearing different clothes. I act different. I let my Talbots suits and my vintage shirts remake me in their image. I want to let Jesus do the same."

I believe this is what the apostle Paul was getting to in his letter to the church in Colossae, when he wrote, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive each other; as the Lord has forgiven you. And above all these things, put on love, which binds everything in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." -- *Colossians 3: 12-15*

He was inviting the readers to imagine clothing themselves in the image of Christ. It is a beautiful image.

Imagine how differently we might see the world and how differently our lives might be if each morning, regardless of where the day would take us, we would arise and consciously clothe ourselves in the image of Christ. Imagine if we began each day with putting on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Imagine if we began each day with a commitment to forgive. And above all, imagine if we began each new moment with choosing to wear love in all times, in all places, in all situations and with all people. Imagine if we became what we decided to wear, when clothed ourselves in the image of Christ.

Holy and beloved ones, may we arise each day and clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and above all, love.

Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana: My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

May 28 - June 2

On vacation (celebrating my 25th wedding anniversary)

June 4

Preaching at Grantfork UCC for their 145th Anniversary

June 11

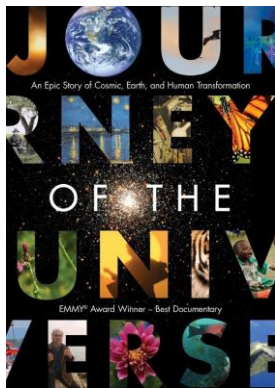
Preaching at Fieldon UCC for their 150th Anniversary

June 25

Preaching at St. Peter UCC, Centralia

I am currently planning my worship schedule for September, 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 **Your OCWM monies at work.**



People committed to environmental wellness and awareness are invited to come on Sunday, July 2 - Saturday, July 8, 2017, to Ghost Ranch Education and Retreat Center in Abiquiu ("Ah-bi-cue"), New Mexico. Called "Earth Honoring Faith: Journey of the Universe-An Epic Story for Our Shared Future," the goal of the event is to highlight ecological, justice-centered perspectives that promote interfaith efforts for the well-being of humankind and Earth itself.

A trailer for the Emmy Award-winning 55 minute movie "Journey of the Universe" can be found [online](#) and is available to stream on Amazon Prime. "Earth Day" is no longer a one day or weekend event. Stewardship and care for the Earth and the environment are increasingly major political/social/economic/governmental policy issues that have global and lasting effect upon planet Earth and our children's and grandchildren's well-being. In a time of political unrest and uncertainty about the future of environmental and eco-policies, Earth-Honoring Faith marks a gathering of people committed to make positive impacts on environmental justice issues.

Registrations are underway for Earth-Honoring Faith this July. Go [online](#) or call the Registrar Office at 505-685-1001 or 505-685-1017. Click [here](#) for more information.



HIGH SCHOOL WEEK at DuBois Center

June 18-23 older youth (completed grades 8-12) take over the Rustic Village. One week, two great options: Wranglers and X-Plore! It's a week to be yourself, make good friends, find new adventures and grow with God. Adventure Tree is back! Meals on Rustic are back! Choice times are back! And with them more opportunities to focus on special interests and customize your week. Hang from a tree; get super crafty; fish at Deer Run; ride horses in "the bottoms"; or get sporty with international staff. For details, pick up a brochure in your church office, click [here](#) for the online version or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Ready to register? Go to www.DuBoisCenter.org or click [here](#). Don't delay - June is just around the corner! **Your OCWM monies at work.**



Camps for Younger Children

Children who have completed grades 1-3 are often looking for ways to gain independence and experience life like the "big kids." Parents are looking for opportunities for their children to gain self-confidence, critical social skills and a greater awareness of God's world. At DuBois Center, we have six part-week sessions designed with this in mind. New adventures under the watchful eyes of caring, safety conscious leaders and smaller group sizes are ideal for this age group. Despite the length of these sessions, there is still time to ride a horse, explore the creek, swim in the lake and make lots of new friends. This summer, choose from Boy Meets Camp, Camp Quest, Discovery Camp or Girl Power. These sessions vary a bit in length and/or content; check out page 6 of the camp [brochure](#) for details. **Your OCWM monies at work.**



QUILTS

One Donated, One to Go

Beautiful quilts are an integral part of DuBois Center's annual Fall Festival. Each year, lovingly crafted treasures are donated for the quilt drawing. Our first quilt of the season has been donated and it's beautiful! This

charming star pattern quilt is twin-sized (66" x 86"), hand-pieced and quilted. It was created and donated by Sarah Moore, a member at Bethel UCC in Cahokia. This is Sarah's second Fall Festival quilt. If you or your group would like to donate a quilt for this year's drawing, contact Shirley at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Ideally, the second quilt would be queen-sized. Thanks for your support!

2017 Theme

Do It for the Vine

John 15:5-11 *Connecting through Christ*

In the story of the vine and the branches, we learn that we have two responsibilities: staying connected to the vine and bearing fruit. Join us this summer as we discover ways to do both! With daily scriptures to guide us, we will explore the vineyard and ways to experience God's love as we grow as branches. We'll practice seeing with our hearts, listening for God and reconnecting with Jesus, ourselves and friends at camp. It will be a grand adventure, grounded by deep roots and braced by our strong vine - Jesus Christ. **Your OCWM monies at work.**



WELCOME TEAM

Join Us!

June 11, 25,

and/or

July 9, 16, 23

On these five Sundays, scores of UCC campers will arrive at DuBois Center

eager and excited to begin their time at camp. A minimum of 12 volunteers each of these Sundays plus summer staff are needed to make the check-in process run smoothly! Volunteers assist with greetings, parking, the camp store, registration, health screenings, dock duty and people-moving. They arrive by 1:15 pm and are done by 4 pm. Please consider joining our Sunday Welcome Team on one or more check-in days. You are invited to wear a church t-shirt and show your spirit. Even consider bringing a team from your church! Let us know in advance when you can help; contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

CABIN COUNSELORS

Kid-focused!

Faith-filled!

Safety-conscious!

Young at heart!

If these characteristics describe you, please consider sharing your gifts and talents at DuBois Center this summer. Volunteer cabin counselors work hand in hand with summer staff members to guide small

groups of campers. In doing so, they touch lives and make a real difference. We are currently recruiting volunteer counselors for three and six-day sessions. Contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Volunteer applications are available [online](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org) at www.DuBoisCenter.org.



Rainbow Camp Registration is now open. Rainbow Camp is Aug. 12, 2017 at DuBois Center, from 9 am - 7 pm. You can ride a horse, paddle a canoe, take a pontoon ride, make several crafts, shoot some arrows, catch a fish and a lot more, while making a bunch of new friends. The day will wrap up with a bbq dinner on the patio of Oak Lodge overlooking the lake. Rainbow Camp is for everyone in the LGBTQ community and straight allies. Register [online](#) now to get the early bird discount. See the camp [flyer](#) for more information.



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!



Job Opportunity:

Deaconess Foundation is searching for a Director of Advocacy. The Director of Advocacy stewards strategic communications to advance the foundation's public policy agenda for child well-being. The Director will establish and maintain relationships with targeted constituents, policymakers, researchers and media through personal contact and media platforms. S/he will support the CEO in development and implementation of the organization's leadership strategy and annual communications plans. To learn more about this opportunity including responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply, visit the Deaconess Foundation [website](#).

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Attention Pastors: This is a warm invitation to any and all retired pastors and spouses to come to and enjoy the next gathering of the Pastors/Spouses Fellowship on Thursday, May 25 at 11:30 am at the Red Apple Family Restaurant in Maryville. Please RSVP to Herb & Bennie Schafale at 618-476-3925 or herbenne@wisperhome.com no later than today. **This will be our final get-together until September.**



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.

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.

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 and click [here](#) to register.

Region 2

On Fri, June 2 from 3 pm - 7 pm, St. Paul UCC in Floraville will host an American Red Cross blood drive in honor of a long-time member, Bob Raffety. During his extended illness from August to December 2016, he never complained during the most difficult times. You are invited to join them to donate blood for other patients in need. To schedule an appointment please go to redcrossblood.org and enter the Sponsor Code: BobRaffety. Bring a valid photo ID. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Region 3

Eden Church in Edwardsville

Region 4

Fieldon UCC will celebrate its 150th Anniversary on Sun, June 11. After the Sunday service where Rev. Shana Johnson, Designated Conference Minister will preach, there will be a potluck meal.

Region 9

Chicken Dinner & Strawberry Festival will be held at Concordia UCC in Belleville (Millstadt) on Sun, June 4 from 11 am - 3 pm. Menu includes fried chicken with all the "fixins." Dine-in and carry-outs, call 618-476-3377. Adults \$11; Children 6-12 - \$5.50; Children 5 & Under free. Quilt Raffle Chances \$1 or 6/\$5. Bake sale and craft sale. *Note: Chicken

VBS - June

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.*
June 19 - 23; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Belleville Concordia UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*
June 26 - 30; Dupo Christ UCC; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God!*

VBS - July

July 9 - 13; 6 pm - 8 pm; *Granite City St. John UCC; Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*
July 9 - 11; 6 pm - 9 pm; *Midway St. John UCC; Camp Out VBS.*
July 10 - 14; 9 am - 12 pm;

will host a **Pastor Resource Day presented by Gift of Voice on Wed, July 19 from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.** This forum focuses on personal wellness, community collaboration and making a lasting difference. In addition to the terrific keynote speakers, topics include healthy leadership, suicide prevention, integrated health care, trauma - informed ministry and Christ-centered advocacy. Speakers are Nanette Larson, DMH, and Carlton Speight, SAMHSAC. Cost is \$10. Click [here](#) for registration form.

Region 4

St. John's UCC in Brighton and the Brighton Ministerial Alliance offer a Community Outdoor Pentecost Worship and Picnic at 10 am on Sun, June 4 to be held in the Betsy Ann Park in Brighton, 413 S Main Street. A combined worship service will be followed by a picnic. All are welcome to attend. The organizers will be cooking burgers and hot dogs; others are invited to bring a dish to share if you wish.

Saturday, June 3 St. John's UCC in Brighton will hold a large Rummage sale in conjunction with the city wide garage sale in Brighton. Doors will open at 8 am. Clothes, housewares, kids toys, gadgets, equipment, furniture and much, much more.

is fried in peanut oil.

VBS - June

June 5 - 9; 9 am - 11:30 am; Fieldon UCC; *I Am a Child of God.*

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

June 5 - 9; 8:30 am - 11:30 am; Okawville St. Peter's 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; Maestown 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 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.*

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 17 - 21; 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm; at Centralia St. Peter UCC including 1st Christian Church, 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st United Methodist Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Zion UCC, and St. Peter UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 23 - 26; 5:15 pm - 8 pm; at Metropolis St. Rose Catholic Church joint VBS with Metropolis Zion UCC; *Campout, Getting S'more of Jesus.*

July 24 - 27; 6 pm - 8 pm; Wood River St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 24 - 28; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm; New Athens, St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

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 24 - 28; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Jerseyville Peace UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 30 - August 3; 6 pm - 8 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*