

Weekly Connection

For the Week of August 20, 2017 - August 26, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



**The Amazing People of ISC....
Three Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children,
Love of God's Creation**

An expression of Love of Neighbor...

Monday evening, August 7, 2017, Viv (Rev. Ivan) Horn was awarded by the City of Waterloo, **the Good Neighbor Award** at the Waterloo City Council Meeting. Viv was nominated by Elaine Steingrubey, Director of the Morrison-Talbott Library. She planned, planted, watered, weeded and generally takes care of the flower beds at the Morrison-Talbott Library and the Waterloo History Museum. Viv's dedication enhances both locations and the entire community of Waterloo. Viv and Ivan are active in the Waterloo Garden Club and Alderman Ward I. The next evening, Tuesday, Viv was given special recognition for the award by the Monroe County Democrat Club, by the President and an active member of the club, Alderman Ward II, Jim Hopkins.

Pictured (l to r): Elaine Steingrubey, Morrison-Talbott Library Director; Tom Smith, Mayor of Waterloo, Illinois; Viv Horn; Rev. Ivan Horn; and Russ Thomas, Ward I Alderman.

**An expression of Love of Children...
Bernice Engelmann Recognized on Her 90th Birthday for
70 Years Teaching Sunday School**

On Sunday, July 16 and Bernice Engelmann's 90th birthday, Addieville Zion UCC recognized her, a humble servant of the Lord, for 70 years of teaching Sunday School. Rev. Bill Groennert, current Pastor of the church, was one of Bernice's Sunday School students. A luncheon followed in the Parish Hall. Family members from around the country attended the festivities on this weekend. Bernice is a dedicated teacher, respected and loved by people of all ages. She is an enthusiastic teacher, who is outstanding in relating to her students. Bernice is active in community events, regularly attending theater and sporting events throughout the St. Louis region. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done! Pictured (l to r): Rev. Bill Groennert and Bernice Engelmann



An expression of Love of God's Creation...

A huge thank you goes out to members of the ISC Property Committee for their work in removing the old bushes nearly obstructing the sidewalk around the Illinois South Conference building and replacing them with decorative rocks. People can now walk freely on the sidewalk without dodging the bushes! Thanks, Rev. R.J. Morgan, Pastor of New Hanover Zoar UCC and chair of the committee; Bob Schrumpf, committee member and member of Grantfork UCC; and David Payne, committee member and member of Grantfork UCC.



Annual Meeting - One-Day Format - October 21, 2017

The annual meeting has been limited to one day to be held at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

The highlights include:

- Worship with Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs
- Honoring of Church & Ordination Anniversaries during lunch meal
- Presentation by Deaconess Foundation
- Discussion and vote for ISC structure and Bylaws changes
- Discussion and vote to call Rev. Shana Johnson as Conference Minister
- Discussion and vote on 2018 Budget

Click [here](#) for all delegate materials. Click [here](#) to register online.



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
Aug 20 - Aug 26, 2017
Churches & Pastors**

- DuQuoin St. John's UCC,
Rev. Earl (Rev. Pamela Smith)
Menchofer

Annual Meeting Warm Up Event

Chronicles of the UCC:

History, Boundaries, Personalities, and Stories

On October 20, 2017, there will be an opportunity for you to learn more about Illinois South Conference and the United Church of Christ from 9:30 am - 4 pm at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville. Traditionally, this day of education was for the clergy, but this year it is open to everyone. There is much to learn...



Presenters l - r). Lunch at noon.

1 pm - 4 pm

Storytelling in Worship

presented by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs

9:30 am - 4 pm

The Secret Lives of Pastors

presented by Rev. Shana Johnson

9:30 am - 4 pm

Understanding Personalities Through Enneagrams

presented by Dr. Jill Baker

9:30 am - 4 pm

History and Governance of UCC

presented by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell

Click [here](#) to download registration form. Register [online](#).



The 2017 Confirmation Retreat will be Fri, Sept. 22 at 7:00 pm through Sat, Sept 23 at 8:00 pm. The theme will be focused on the UCC's vision, *Three Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation*. The retreat will again take place at the beautiful DuBois Center and will be led by the talented and energetic Rev. John Holst from Zion UCC, Marion.

Click [here](#) for a complete packet of information.

Click [here](#) for all forms found on the ISC website.

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a fall semester online UCC History, Polity and Theology class beginning on September 6 and ending December 6. The class meets the polity requirements of the ISC Church & Ministry Team. It can be taken either for academic credit or simply to fulfill the polity requirement.

It is a rigorous, engaging class that is offered asynchronously so it 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. Tim Downs and his team have been teaching this course online for the last six years, and it has evolved and adapted to the changes in the UCC and the changing needs of those seeking authorization for ministry.

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 are provided for Church & Ministry Team upon request. Students taking the class for credit need to make special arrangements with Tim and their seminaries. Any questions about the class can be directed to Tim Downs, the lead facilitator, at timothy.c.downs@gmail.com. The cost of the class is \$629 and the deadline for registration is August 30. Register [online](#).

Dear Friends,

This has been a difficult time in the life of our Conference as well as in our nation. Recently, in the Illinois South Conference, three beloved pastors died: Rev. John Klueter, Rev. Gretchen Sterrett and Rev. Jerry Amiri. Three beautiful souls. Three

- East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith UCC, Pastor Norma Patterson

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Charles Preston and Rev. Karla Frost, Granite City, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Keep the family of Marguerite J. "Gretchen" (Paul) Sterrett in your prayers as they mourn her passing. Rev. Sterrett was the pastor and teacher of New Baden Zion UCC for 28 years and currently a member of the ISC Church & Ministry Preparation Committee. A memorial service will be held at 10 am on Saturday, August 19 at the Wesclin High School, 10003 State Route 160, Trenton, Illinois with Rev. Shana Johnson, Rev. Don Wagner and Rev. Gene Neff presiding. Cards of condolence can be sent to Paul Sterrett at #9 North Railway Street, New Baden, IL 62265. Click [here](#) for full obituary.

- Remember the family of Rev. Jerry (Carol) Amiri as they mourn his sudden death on Thursday, August 10. Rev. Amiri was the Senior Pastor of Alhambra Salem UCC, the co-chair of DuBois on Broadway in April 2017 and served on several ISC Teams during his nine years in ISC. Funeral services were this morning at the Salem UCC with Pastor John Mindrup and Rev. Shana Johnson presiding. Cards of condolence can be sent to Carol Amiri at 1205 West North Street, Alhambra, IL 62001. Click [here](#) for full obituary.



Congratulations on the recent marriage of Rev. Laurie Crelly and Amy Brooks on July 2nd, 2017. Rev. Crelly is serving St. John's UCC in Brighton IL and



beautiful examples of authentically living a Christ-like life. Three persons deeply committed to challenging themselves and others to create a just and compassionate world for all through love and action. It has been a time of giving thanks for their incredible witness as well as a time of acknowledging and wrestling with our shock and grief.

Then over the weekend, as many of us watched in horror, disgust, and sadness as the situation escalated in Charlottesville, Virginia, we once again grieved over the intolerance, violence, hatred, and evil that continues to pervade our world. All of it can cause us to be very weary...overwhelmed...and a bit lost, wondering if we can really make a difference.

Friends, I believe, now more than ever, it is important to remember that our words matter. How we treat others matters. How we choose to respond in the face of loss and tragedy matters. Our lives and how we bear witness to the light and love of Christ matters. Many are watching, listening, and taking notice of what our words and life are saying and teaching about what it means to be a follower of Christ.

In light of the situation in Charlottesville, as a reminder of how much racism and intolerance still exists in the world, I am reminded (as I hope you are too) of the crucial role we in the church play to fully reflect the love of God in Christ Jesus. We are the ones who have been called to teach what the radical, inclusive love of God looks like, what it sounds like, and how the love of God responds in even the most difficult circumstances.

I firmly believe we are not born to hate, but rather, as children of God, we are born to love. We teach others, especially our children, how to accept or deny the diversity of this world.

Let us remember that others are watching and they are paying attention....

- to the way we speak about others
- to the comments we make when we watch the news
- to the jokes we tell
- to the labels we use
- to what we post on Facebook and social media
- to the people we befriend and those we avoid
- to the ways we interact or react around people who are different than us.

Many are watching, listening, and taking notice of what our words and life are teaching.

May we, like the pastors and teachers we have recently lost, authentically live Christ-like lives.

May we be deeply committed to challenging ourselves and others to create a just and compassionate world for all through love and action.

Blessing, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

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

August 27

Preaching at St. John UCC, Summerfield & St. Jacob UCC

August 27 at 4 pm

Participating in the Installation service of Rev. Joel Jackle-Hugh at United in Faith, Pana

September 10

Worshiping at St. Peter's UCC, Okawville celebrating 20 years of shared ministry between Pastor Jeff and the congregation

September 17

Preaching at Immanuel UCC, Carlyle for their 150th Anniversary

Shana's worship schedule is full through November 2017. If you would like to invite her to worship with you for December 2017 and beyond, reach out to her at 618-654-2125 (office) or 618-882-8247 (cell) or sjohnson@iscucc.org. **Your OCWM monies at work.**

Free for the Taking

The Illinois South Conference is sprucing up! We have many different styles of furniture - resembling early college decor. We are offering these items to a good home. If you are interested in using any of these items, please contact Christy at 618-654-2125 or cpursell@iscucc.org. You will need to arrange to pick them up from the Highland office. Items which are not claimed by another owner will be given away in another way.

Mrs. Brooks is in her final year at Eden Seminary. The wedding was held in McGregor, Minnesota, surrounded by family and friends and officiated by friend and fellow UCC minister, Rev. Cindy Mueller.

- Pray for Jeanne (Arnold) Meyer as she continues to recuperate. She is a member of Highland Evangelical UCC and the sister of Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator.

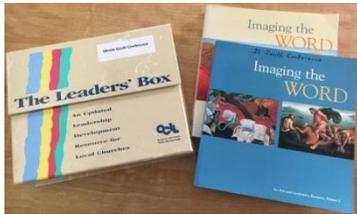
- Keep Lelynna (Rev. James) Langdoc in your prayers as she recovers from surgery. Rev. Langdoc is a former ISC Associate Conference Minister. Cards may be sent to Lelynna at 2032 Sifield Greens Way #28, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

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

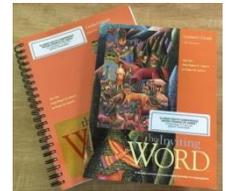
- Keep Dorothy Edwards in your prayers as she deals with health issues. Dorothy is a member of the East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and the mother of Pastor Norma Patterson.



- Brown Table 30" x 20" x 23"
 1 - Computer Table 34.5" x 33" x 20" - Items on desk not included.
 Chalkboard is 4' x 6' and can be mounted to a wall.
 1- Wing-backed bluish chair
 1 - Black waiting chair
 2 - green chairs
 1 - small pew (from Fayetteville Friedens UCC)



In our process of cleaning out, we have found these items that we hope can find new homes. The *Leaders Box* is a resource that many churches use for leadership development. We have a number of *Imaging the Word* books as well as all three years of the *Inviting Word* series: a worship-centered, lectionary-based curriculum for congregations. Contact the office if you are interested in having these resources in your library.



Complying with Fair Credit Reporting Act & Managing a Legal Background Screening Program

Reprinted from *The Steward Newsletter*, *The Insurance Board*

Adopting a solid screening and selection process is your first line of defense in creating a safe environment. A thorough, consistent process may discourage offenders from targeting your church. Failure to discover a known offender can affect those in your care and the church's reputation, financial stability, and trust within the community. Background screening is highly regulated and filled with legal complexities, so how can you mitigate these risks so your church can benefit from the added safety that screening provides?

Complying with the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) and other laws is not always simple. However, by consistently following steps and partnering with a trusted professional background screening provider, you can adopt a process that minimizes your exposure to this type of litigation.

Always get consent prior to requesting a background check. This rule applies to both employees and volunteers, so don't be tempted to follow a more relaxed protocol just because it is not a paid position. Also, the content and presentation of your consent documents matter. Very specific language regarding the scope of the background check must be included, and it must be provided in a clear and conspicuous manner.

Failure to complete this step correctly is one of the greatest mistakes churches make, and it can be costly even if nobody suffers any real damages or comes to any harm. Attorney's fees, actual and punitive damages can drive up the cost of these "simple" errors. Read [more...](#)



Just Peace Sunday - September 17

Two years ago, at the 30th General Synod, UCC marked 30 years as a Just Peace Church. The resolution that passed, called on all congregations of the UCC to renew its witness as a Just Peace Church and to annually mark the Sunday preceding September 21st (designated by United Nation as the "International Day of Prayer for Peace") as Just Peace Sunday - September 17.

The theme for 2017 is *Remember, Repent, Renew: The Way of Just Peace*. Worship materials are posted [here](#) and includes a sermon seed, a liturgy, a craft, social media images, and a way to put Just Peace principles into practice on the issue of militarized drones.



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



SWEET TREATS!

It's hard to imagine Fall Festival at DuBois Center without a tempting variety of sweet treats to munch on throughout the day. Each year church members across the Illinois South Conference gather in their kitchens to cook up big batches of cookies, bars, candies, snack mixes, pies and cakes to be sold in the Sweet Treat Shoppe at Fall Festival. Get your **Bake Date** on the calendar now. Proceeds go directly to the DuBois Center Scholarship Fund; help send a young person to camp! Click [here](#) for

a flyer to post at your church and share with friends.

WHO: Everyone is invited to contribute goodies

WHAT: Homemade or purchased Sweet Treats of all kinds*

WHEN: Sale Date is Sunday, Oct. 1 at the DuBois Center Fall Festival.

CONTACT: For more information, call or text Melissa at 314-440-6646 or Kristen at 618-567-6863. *please include list of any fruits or nuts in desserts



Sunday Welcome Team - THANK YOU!

Each Sunday of our summer camp season, DuBois Center is buzzing with scores of excited campers and their families, all energized and ready for their time at camp. Ensuring a smooth check-in process with as few delays as possible is a tall order - one made possible ONLY with the help of 12-15 volunteers each week. Our Sunday Welcome Team braves the sweaty summer temperatures with smiles on their faces as they direct parking, greet families, check heads for critters, screen health forms, catch and drive pontoon boats, operate the camp store, and direct the flow of traffic through the check-in process. This summer over 40 different volunteers - many serving on multiple Sunday - made a HUGH difference! On behalf of DuBois Center staff, parents and campers, we would like to extend a hearty and heartfelt THANK YOU to the everyone who assisted this summer: **Donna Asbridge; Casey, Kris & Nicole Avise-Rouse; Bre Beisiegel; Thomas Belcher, Norma Borgmann; Kim Carn; Joan Daab; Christy Eckert; Aaron, Harmon & Susan Fuchs; JoAnn & Larry Godare; Becky Harrison; Angie Hausmann; Audrey Hicks; John Holst, Anne, Colleen & David Jackson; Leah & Wendy Juenger; Don Kaiser; Sandy & Scott Kuether; Arline Magee; Cara Magee Johnston; Tom May; Lisa, RJ & Sam Morgan; Todd Mushaney; Anne, Don & Jason Petry; Alaina & Ian Scherle; Joe & Kara Schmid; and Darline Weihl.** Please forgive us if we missed anyone; everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated!



Sunday Welcome Team Rock Stars:

Donna Asbridge, Norma Borgmann, Audrey Hicks and Scott Kuether assisted with all six Sunday check-in days, and Audrey recruited a "head check team" for each week. A special thanks for your hard work and dedication!

ZOAR UCC - Thank You!

This year as part of their **Campout, Getting S'more of Jesus** VBS program, our friends at Zoar UCC collected a wonderful variety of supplies and cash for DuBois Center to use throughout the



year. We now have piles of construction paper and ribbon for crafting, hats and ties for dressing up, beach balls and bandanas for playing, glue sticks and scissors for creating, and even a bag of food for the barn cats. Amid the boxes and bags that were delivered, a number of backpacks and water bottles were also included. There are always summer campers, many from low-income families, who arrive without these critical items. This gift will help replenish those supplies for next summer. Sending a shout out to the Zoar UCC VBS team - "campers," parents, teachers and helpers: **THANK YOU** for keeping DuBois Center in your thoughts and prayers, and for this very fun and timely gift!



JOB OPPORTUNITY:

Nature's Classroom Instructor

Are you a substitute teacher, active retiree or someone with a flexible schedule? Do you enjoy the outdoors and have experience working with youth or as a teacher? Nature's Classroom Instructors are needed from September 20 through October. They work with school groups (grades 5-8) that stay overnight at the Center.



They provide a fun and supportive environment, while teaching about predator-prey interactions, night life in the woods, cultural differences, erosion, teamwork and other engaging topics. Our instructors teach the classes and lead campfires and other evening activities. Parent chaperones supervise recreation, dining tables and cabin times. Training is provided, as are meals and overnight accommodations during Nature's Classroom sessions. Click [here](#) for a program brochure or position [description](#). Contact DuBois Center office at 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org.

Think FALL! Think FALL FESTIVAL!

The DuBois Center annual Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 1. This is the Center's largest friend-and fund-raising event of the year. Please help us spread the word by inserting this logo into your bulletins and newsletters. If you want to feature it on your website and/or include it in PowerPoints and emails, we can email the jpg to you or you can copy it from this newsletter.

DuBois Center
FALL Sunday Oct 1
from 11-5
FESTIVAL
& Vintage Market

Family Friendly Community Event • FREE Parking • FREE Admission

Help Wanted: SHOPPING DIVAS FOR FALL FESTIVAL

New this year to Fall Festival is an Upscale Resale Shop in Oak Lodge. Donations are beginning to trickle in, and we already have some nice designer purses, challenging board games, collectible toys and current DVD sets - all in great shape. See [flyer](#) for details. What we need is a few Shopping Divas to manage the store, price items, recruit volunteer store clerks and oversee the shop on Sunday, October 1. To volunteer as a diva or clerk, or just learn more, contact Norma Borgmann at nborgmann1658@charter.net or 618-292-4617.



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

Raising Awareness about Alzheimer's Disease

A special screening of the award-winning documentary, Glen Campbell - I'll Be Me that chronicles music legend Glen Campbell and his farewell "Goodbye Tour" on August 23 at the Granite City Cinema, 1243 Niedringhaus Ave, Granite City. Doors open at 11 am and the movie runs from noon - 2 pm. The film documents this amazing journey as Glen and his family attempt to navigate the wildly unpredictable nature of his progressing disease using love, laughter and music as their medicine of choice. The event is FREE but reservations are required. RSVP to 618-531-9430 or to msmith@hospice.org. Complimentary popcorn and soft drinks. Seating is limited. Sponsored by St. John's Community Care, AARP, and Hospice of Southern Illinois, Inc. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

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

ST. JOHN'S
COMMUNITY CARE
Caring compassionately for aging and disabled people since 1985

Family Caregiver Support Group- Collinsville

Wednesday, Sept 6, 5:30 pm - 7 pm. This support group is intended for family caregivers caring for loved ones with any type of disability. Join us for a light complimentary dinner. Sessions are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Complimentary care for loved ones is available with a reservation. Call 618-344-5008.

Alzheimer's Support Group- Collinsville

Tuesday, Sept 5, 1:30 pm - 3 pm. Join others dealing with dementia and memory loss. Sessions are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Complimentary care for loved ones available with reservation. Call 618-344-5008.

Family Caregiver Support Group - Edwardsville

Wednesday, August 16, from 6:30 pm - 8 pm. This support group is intended for family caregivers caring for loved ones with any type of disability. Sessions are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month. For more information call 618-656-7090.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...



Friendships were made and renewed at the third annual Rainbow Camp last weekend. Campers enjoyed a full day of all that DuBois Center has to offer, surrounded by exceptionally pleasant mid-August weather. It was a great day of fun for all ages. Rainbow Camp is for anyone in the LGBTQ community and straight allies.

Hunger Action Sunday at Bethel

Bethel UCC in Cahokia invites you to listen to Rev. Lisa Guilliams, the speaker on Sunday, September 17 at their 10 am service. This has been designated as their Hunger Action Sunday. Rev. Guilliams is the Founder and Chief Dreamer of TWIGS, a program that was launched in 2011 to address hunger in a single neighborhood of Granite City. It has grown from a neighborhood project to a regional affair, reaching into 31 communities in southern Illinois. The purpose of our Hunger Action Sunday at Bethel is to:

- Thank God for continued vision and strength to address hunger in our communities and the world,
- Encourage and equip one another in the fight against hunger, and
- Celebrate visionary servants.

Prepare to be inspired. Location is 220 Camp Jackson Road in Cahokia, Illinois.

Job Opportunities

Congratulations to Darlene Warning, who is retiring as Office Manager for St. John UCC, Mascoutah after 34 years of service.

St. John UCC in Mascoutah is looking for a full-time Office Manager to fill that position. The position description is on the church website www.saintjohnucc.org.

St. John UCC, Mascoutah seeks a part-time Director of Music, which involves directing and accompanying the Chancel Choir and other ensembles and soloists as well as being Director of Handbell Choir. The position description is on the church website www.saintjohnucc.org

Printer/Copier Available

St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville has an old printer/copier that works but needs a new home. It is a Cannon ImageRUNNER 3570. If anyone is interested, contact Amy Rhymer at 618-344-2526 or office@stjohnucc.org.

Would you like your church to be publicly welcoming to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community? The Open and Affirming process can help your congregation do that, by extending an intentional welcome to those who have often been intentionally shunned by the church. It can go well beyond the LGBTQ community too, by including many others who may have been excluded because of race, nationality, gender, mental or physical ability, or socioeconomic status.

ONA is an educational process that creates a space for conversation that opens hearts and minds. If you'd like to learn more about how to start the ONA conversation in your congregation, call the Conference office for more information.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

#1 - St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Okawville requests you to save the date of Sunday, September 10 to attend the celebration of the 20th anniversary of shared ministry with their pastor, Rev. Jeff Schwab. There will be a special worship service starting at 10 am with a potluck meal at 11:30 am in their fellowship hall. All are invited to attend and help celebrate this wonderful occasion.

#2 - Immanuel United Church of Christ in Carlyle will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, September 17. at the church. More information to follow. All are invited.

The Insurance Board offers free Webinars

Here's what's happening soon...

Know Your Score! Abuse Prevention Self Assessment

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 - 2 pm to 3 pm (Eastern Time) - More information [here](#).

Keeping Ministries Safe: 5 Things Churches Can Do

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 - 2 pm to 3 pm (Eastern Time) - More information [here](#).

How to Avoid Background Screening Litigation

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 - 2 pm to 3 pm (Eastern Time) - More information [here](#).

Region 3

Metro-East Food Pantry Network invites you to participate in a networking workshop on August 30, at 2 pm, at the University of Illinois Extension Office, #1 Regency Drive, Suite 200, Collinsville, IL. The agenda includes networking with area food pantry leaders and a program on volunteer management presented by Rich Skinner, VP United Way Volunteer Center. All are invited. RSVP to Amy at amyfunk@illinois.edu or 618-344-4230. Click [here](#) for a flyer. Click [here](#) for Metro-East Food Pantry Network's topics of interest.

Region 4

St. John's UCC in Brighton is offering a Grief Support Group on Wednesdays at 7 pm through Aug 30. This support group discusses the various "touchstones of Grief" discussed in *Understanding Your Grief Book* by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. and offers a supportive environment to discuss one's personal grief.

Region 4

Wood River St. John UCC will host its 3rd Annual All You Can Eat BBQ on Aug 24 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Adults \$9; Children 6 - 10 years \$4.50; Children 5 years and under FREE (dine in only). Menu includes pulled pork, corn on the cob, sliced tomatoes, cole slaw, drinks and dessert. Visa and Mastercard accepted. Handicap accessible. Carry-outs available upon request at adult price.

Fieldon UCC will host its Annual Fall Supper on Sat, Sept 23 from 4 pm - 8 pm. All you can eat family-style deep fried buffalo fish & tender roast beef, whole potatoes in brown beef gravy, slaw with homemade dressing, green beans with bacon, homemade potato salad, homemade applesauce, relish tray, homemade pies & cakes, coffee and tea. Adults \$12; Children 6 - 12 years \$6; Children 5 and under FREE. Quilt raffle and country store.

Region 4

The Patchwork Youth Gathering is meeting on the 4th Sunday each month at 5 pm at St. John's UCC in Brighton. The Patchwork is an LGBT and Friends drop in fun night. Youth-led, supportive and caring environment for all youth to make friends and find support dealing with the struggles of Teen life. Youth 13 - 20 are invited to attend. They make dinner together, play games, watch movies and catch up with each other. Check out our Facebook page group "The Patchwork" to get the latest news on upcoming events.

Region 6

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center presents a workshop, Leadership and Anxiety in the Church: A Family Systems Perspective, on Sept 22 from 9 am - 4 pm at the West Salem Trinity United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon, IL. Cost is \$75.