

Weekly Connection

For the Week of August 27, 2017 - September 2, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

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

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



Keynote Speaker: Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs

Jim Bear Jacobs was born in 1977 in St. Paul, MN. He is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, an American Indian tribe located in central Wisconsin. He has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology and has served various churches as youth minister, adult Christian educator, and director of Men's Ministries. He is a cultural facilitator in the Twin Cities and works to raise the public's awareness of American Indian causes and injustices. He is a convener of "Healing Minnesota Stories," a committee dedicated to creating events of dialogue and education particularly within faith communities. He presently lives in Coon Rapids with his wife Susan and three (soon to be four) young children Other highlights include:

- Worship with Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs
 - Honoring of Church Anniversaries during lunch meal
 - Honoring 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.



Pre-meeting Gatherings Will Explain Decisions at Annual Meeting

Delegates should plan to attend one of the pre-meetings for Annual Meeting to hear explanations of structure and bylaws changes, the proposed budget, and to meet Rev. Shana Johnson prior to the vote to call her as Conference Minister. Don't miss this opportunity to stay informed.

Sunday, September 17 at Salem UCC in Alhambra beginning at 3 pm. (Closest to Regions 3, 4, 5, but all are welcome.)

Thursday, September 21 at St. Paul UCC in Columbia beginning at 7 pm. (Closest to Regions 2, 8, 9, but all are welcome.)

Sunday, September 24 at Church of the Good Shepherd in Carbondale beginning at 3 pm. (Closest to Regions 1, 6, 7, but all are welcome.)



"Ralph Waldo Emerson once asked what we would do if the stars only came out once every thousand years. No one would sleep that night, of course. The world would create new religions overnight. We would be ecstatic, delirious, made rapturous by the glory of God. Instead, the stars come out every night and we watch television."

-Paul Hawken

I have to confess I almost missed it. I was treating it like it would be any other day. I had heard others talk about where they would be and the plans they were making, I had not factored it in. I had not made it a priority. I had not made time and space for it in my calendar. Until I had a conversation with someone whose enthusiasm about the event was contagious. Then I started to wonder how I could have ever thought about missing such an event that will not happen again until 2024.

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 27 - Sept 2, 2017 Churches & Pastors

- Edwardsville Eden Church,
Rev. John (Jami) Roberts
- Edwardsville St. Paul UCC,
Rev. Diane Grohmann

My near miss of the solar eclipse made me realize how dismissive I can be of the beauty, the awe, and the majesty of creation. Too often, I take for granted God's handiwork. Each day, I take for granted that the sun will rise and set. I take for granted the earth will rotate on its axis. I take for granted that the beautiful presence of the moon and the stars will be visible on a clear night's sky.



Too often, I spend far too much time questioning the ugliness in the world instead of celebrating, rejoicing, and marveling in the breathtaking beauty, God continues to provide for us. Then there are the moments, like yesterday's eclipse, that I am "made rapturous by the glory of God."

Yesterday reminded me, and perhaps it reminded you too, of how truly majestic are the works of God in creation. It was actually a wonderful thing that so many people were excited to see. Many of us were ecstatic and delirious about the event. And we should have been, for we were bearing witness to a miracle of God's creation. Although it was a fleeting moment, may it serve as a reminder of the majesty of God's creation that we should not take for granted.

Or as Christina Robinson writes in Psalms for A New World in her modern translation of Psalm 8,

"Many-Named One
beyond imagining
When I contemplate the night sky,
the cosmos which all unfolded from a speck,
galaxies, stars, this beautiful earth-
Who are we humans, that you attend to us?
mere mortals in our tiny corner, and you love us?
We are life come to knowing and feeling.
The whole world is in our hands.
plants and animals, oceans and ice caps, rain forests
atmosphere and ecosystem.
Touch our hearts, O God,
make us worthy of this trust
Help us care for life on this beautiful earth."

Photo of yesterday's eclipse at top and crescent shapes through shadows of tree's leaves.

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

I am currently planning my worship schedule for December 2017. If you would like to invite me to worship with you for December 2017 and beyond, reach out to me at 618-654-2125 (office) or 618-882-8247 (cell) or sjohnson@iscucc.org. **Your OCWM monies at work.**

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter, Hamel, IL

People with Life Concerns

- 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.

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...
1 pm - 4 pm



Storytelling in Worship presented by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (left)

Storytelling can be an interesting way to bring life and current reality into the life of your worship services.

9:30 am - 4 pm

The Secret Lives of Pastors presented by Rev. Shana Johnson (right)

This workshop is for all those who love the church and are curious about the lives of pastors. It will be an honest and humorous look at the call of a local church pastor - what a minister does and why, as well as the relationships between a pastor and the congregation.



9:30 am - 4 pm

Understanding Personalities Through Enneagrams presented by Dr. Jill Baker

The enneagram is an insightful tool that defines personalities in nine distinct types, examining those types in times of growth and stress. It can illuminate your spiritual development and add to your knowledge of why you react certain ways in certain situations. It can also help you understand how you interact with other types. This one-day crash course will introduce the nine personality types of the enneagram and help students determine their type, sub-type or instinct, and wing. It will also look at the emotional centers and underlying motivations for each type. The last portion of class will explore how different types interact with each other, particularly in church settings.



9:30 am - 4 pm

History and Governance of UCC presented by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell

The history of the UCC can help churches understand the differences of the original denominations that seem to create times of conflict in the present day church. Developing an understanding for this "bottom-up" structure of governance will help congregations understand the benefits and challenges of sharing the covenantal relationships churches have with each other. Rev. Brunell teaches classes designed to understand the history and polity of the UCC.

The fee is \$35 for each of the four sessions. If you are interested in attending Rev. Jacob's half-day workshop, you can choose to sit in on one of the other sessions in the morning. Click [here](#) to download registration form. Register [online](#). Lunch at noon.



Deadline for the Confirmation Retreat Space Reservations Was August 18. Call to see if space remains!! 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.

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.



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

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.



MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!
Sunday, Oct 1 at Fall Festival

Each year we are blessed to have a great line-up of local bands and musical groups at Fall Festival. This year is no exception. These groups, many of which return year after year, volunteer their time. Many of their members have a personal connection to DuBois Center and/or the UCC. So sound the trumpets and

beat the drums as we welcome and thank:

- 11 am Spirit Brass - a quintet with a wide repertoire of classic brass music
- 12:10 pm The Haneys - an uplifting Southern Gospel group seen often at local fairs
- 1:40 pm Faith Journey - the joy-filled praise band from St. Paul's UCC in Freeburg
- 3:10 pm Venedy Band - a perennial favorite, concert band Americana

Use this [flyer](#) to help spread the word about DuBois Center's annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 1 from 11 am - 5 pm.



WHAT'S UP DOCK?
Saturday & Monday, Sept 2 & 4

The Oak Lodge dock is a significant piece of the DuBois Center landscape. Pontoon boats depart from it taking guests on tours and summer campers to the Rustic Village. It's a great spot for fishing or just to sit and contemplate God's amazing creation. However, it has seen better days. Over Labor Day weekend, the ISC Property Committee plans to remove and replace it. On Saturday, the aging structure will be detached and floated across the lake where it will be dismantled. On Monday, a new modular dock will be assembled and floated into place. If time allows, the group



also hopes to replace the deck leading up to dock. Rev. RJ Morgan, a former contractor, will be our crew chief for the project. VOLUNTEERS are invited to join the effort. For more information or to volunteer, contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

also hopes to replace the deck leading up to dock. Rev. RJ Morgan, a former contractor, will be our crew chief for the project. VOLUNTEERS are invited to join the effort. For more information or to volunteer, contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



WHO YA GONNA CALL?
Ghost Busters? NO!
Grantfork UCC!

Volunteers from Grantfork UCC frequently take on regular and unusual work projects at DuBois Center. They have installed many

of the wooden fences around camp, split cords of firewood, repaired and painted wagons, reinforced bridges and so much more. Earlier this month they replaced a cracking beam which supported the roof of the stage and installed fascia to prevent future water damage. On their way to camp that day, they stopped at the ISC office in Highland to pick up tables and a 10' long shelving unit - treats for DuBois Center. Their vehicle of choice - a grain truck, of course! They may not have Ghost Buster-style proton packs, but they have the tools to get the job done. Thanks to these dedicated and ingenious volunteers!

It's QUILT time!

The clock is ticking... less than 6 weeks till the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival and the much anticipated Quilt Drawing.



This year, three beautiful and very different quilts have been donated. One is queen-size, one twin, and one perfect for curling up on the couch. With these gems, we are hoping to raise at least \$2,000. You can help by spreading the word! A [flyer](#) with pictures and [tickets](#) are available to assist. You are also invited to sell tickets and display one or more of the quilts at your church on a Sunday morning or during a special event. Contact DuBois Center to reserve a quilt at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

Mother & Daughter Retreat - October 13-15

Fall is just around the corner! School, sports, band, clubs and church programs are all picking up steam, making quality family time even more difficult to



Upscale Resale and Silent Auction Donations

What do stylish purses and accessories, gift baskets, classic toys and holiday decorations have in common? All are items needed for the Fall Festival Upscale Resale Shop and Silent Auction. Please see the attached [flyers](#) for details.

To donate new, almost new or classic items, contact Norma Borgmann at 618-292-4617 or nborgmann1658@charter.net. Items may also be brought directly to DuBois Center on September 29 or 30, or by 11 am on October 1. Donations must have a sale value of at least \$5 each and be clean, new, nearly new or classic, easy to carry and appealing. All proceeds support the ministry of DuBois Center. Thanks in advance for your help and donations!

schedule. STOP! You are invited to breathe, slow down and spend quality time with the girls and women in your life at DuBois Center's annual Mother-Daughter Retreat. Engaging activities, inspiring God Time, great fellowship, meals without cooking



- all are part of this weekend escape. Participate in everything or choose a more relaxed weekend with board games, knitting or leisurely strolls. Either way, the focus of this retreat is on building relationships and making memories with loved ones! All generations and groupings are welcome: mothers and daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters, aunts and nieces! Early Bird Rates: \$106 for adults, \$90 for 12-17 year-olds, and \$80 for 4-11 year-olds. There is an additional charge for horseback riding. **SAVE THE DATE - October 13-15.**

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

There will be 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.



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...

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](#).



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 include 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.

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.

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.

Region 4

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

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.

RSVP to amyfunk@Illinois.edu or 618-344-4230. Click [here](#) for a flyer. Click [here](#) for Metro-East Food Pantry Network's topics of interest.

St. Peter UCC in Granite City will hold their 1st Quarter Auction on Sat, Sept 16. It's a fast-passed auction where you bid on items using quarters instead of large sums of money. Bring a roll of quarters and bid 1 to 4 quarters on a wide variety of items or buy an "ALL IN" paddle and leave your roll of quarters at home. Doors open at 5 pm; auction starts at 6 pm. Cost at the door is \$15 per FIRST paddle; \$25 per FIRST "ALL IN" paddle; and \$10 per SECOND paddle. CASH ONLY NO CHECKS. Vendors are: Young Living, Younique, Usborne Books & More, Lula Roe, Pampered Chef, Lilla Rose, Sentsy, Tastefully Simple, and more. So bring some extra \$cash\$.

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.

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 6

SAVE THE DATE
Immanuel United Church of Christ in Carlyle will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, September 17 at the church. All are invited.

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center offers a workshop titled *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.

Region 7

SAVE THE DATE
St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Okawville requests you save Sun, Sept 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.