

Weekly Connection

For the Week of September 17, 2017 - September 23, 2017 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

A Statement from the ISC Justice & Witness Team in Response to the Violence at Charlottesville

We watch the eclipse, we watch the hurricanes, we watch the wildfires, we watch the climate in the skies and on the earth and in the water. We watch the people, we watch neighbors, we watch strangers, we watch the climate amidst all the beloved ones made in your image.

O God, give us eyes to see

that the long moral arc of the universe is bending towards justice for all the people, for all the creation. Amen.

Any ideology, agenda, or movement that seeks to assert the "supremacy" of one group of people over any other group of people is an act of violence and is opposed to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

There is a time and a place for celebrating one's own cultural and ethnic heritage, but there is never a time nor a place for honoring practices which have denied the full humanity of people of other cultures and ethnicities.

May the Church speak with a clear voice to affirm that people of every race have been made in the image of God.



Clean Up Bucket Day Please Help Us!!

Priscilla Self, Disaster Relief Director for ISC, has been working with the UCC Disaster Ministries, local ISC churches, the ISC Conference, and Hoyleton Youth & Family Services and now has some more details for the Church World Service (CWS) Clean-up bucket assembly and drop off. Please share these

details with your church members:

- Clean Up Bucket day will be Thursday, September 21, at St. John's UCC in Collinsville 307 W. Clay St., Collinsville IL 62234
- Drop off the specific items for the buckets by 9 am. See attached list.
- Assembly of buckets begins at 10 am.
- Bring completed buckets between 10 am and 2 pm.
- Before Sept. 18th Please let Priscilla know if, what, and how many buckets or items you/your church will provide. This is important so the transporter will know what size truck to bring. We will be communicating that information with them on Sept. 18. <a href="Emailto:Em
- Volunteers will be needed to help with assembly and loading the truck on September 21.

Arrangements have been made with Stock Transport to have a truck there for us to load and they will transport them to the Corpus Christi/Houston area - exact location to be determined yet. There are three UCC churches that are accepting the clean-up buckets and hygiene kits to be distributed. Priscilla will contact them to see where the most need is at that time.



Immanuel United Church of Christ in Carlyle will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, September 17 at 10 am. There will be special music by Prairie Travelers and a guest speaker, Designated Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson. A lunch will follow the service. After lunch, they will open a time capsule

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

<u>Hoyleton</u>

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 Sept 17 - 23 Churches & Pastors

- Freeburg St. Paul's UCC, Rev. Earl (Johanna) Crecelius
- Godfrey Congregational UCC, Pastor Julie Kies

that was left by the past members who thought it vital to the church to share some of their memories with future generations. The church members are grateful for the founders establishing their roots in Carlyle. All are invited to join in on this wonderful occasion.



You are Invited to Hunger Action Services at Bethel UCC - Cahokia

Rev. Lisa Guilliams, Founder and Chief dreamer of TWIGS will be the featured speaker at Bethel UCC - Cahokia on Sunday, September 17 at 10 am service. The TWIGS program was launched in 2011 to address hunger in a single neighborhood of Granite City. It has grown from a neighborhood project to a regional program,

Nothing runs on empty.

reaching into 31 communities in southern Illinois.

The purpose of 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

*Čelebrate visionary servants.

Location: 2200 Camp Jackson Rd., Cahokia, IL. Prepare to be inspired.

National Food Programs: For Hurricane Irma - USA Relief, \$250 was forwarded to the UCC. CWM in Cleveland.

International Food Programs: For Hurricane Irma - Caribbean Relief, \$250 was forwarded to the UCC office in Cleveland

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Donald and Anne Sabbert, Crestwood, MO

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Rev. Bob and Nancy Tripp as Nancy deals with health issues. Rev. Tripp is a member of the ISC Church & Ministry Church Committee. They are members of Pana United in Faith Church. Cards may be sent to 9008 E South Cir Dr, Effingham IL 62401.

A Blessing Box/Little Free Food Pantry will be raffled off at the ISC Annual Meeting in Collinsville.

One lucky Annual meeting attendee will be the winner of a wooden Blessing Box with Plexiglas door for their community. **Cost of raffle ticket:** one shelf-stable food item to stock food pantry. Bring it to annual meeting and enter the raffle.

Taken from the Little Free Library idea, Blessing Boxes/ Little Free Food Pantries are springing up all over the country. These very successful pantries are answering the problem of transportation for many people who can't get to a central food pantry or who just need a little to get them by for the day. They also provide an opportunity for persons with a little extra to share. All are blessed - receivers and givers.

Suggested food items: canned vegetables, beans, protein, chili, soups, and fruit. Cooking oil, box sugar, small flour, bread, peanut butter. bar soap, or a roll toilet paper are also useful. NO GLASS, CHEMICALS, CLOTHING, or anything SHARP!

Take what you need. Bring what you can. Above all be blessed! LOOK for us at the ISC Hunger Action Table. Take a bite out of hunger! Use this flyer to promote the idea in your church.





Show the world that ISC is the home of Superman AND SUPER PEOPLE!!

The group identity shirts that ISC delegates wore at General Synod drew so much attention that the Conference Gatherings Team thought others within the Conference may enjoy "shouting" the same story.

Two ISC Delegates, Pastor Norma Patterson (left) and Verna Steinkamp (right) are modeling the shirts. Karen Gaines (another ISC Delegate) designed the shirts. See how she cleverly added the I and C to the Superman logo? And on the back it reads, "Illinois South Conference Home of Superman and Super People. We thank David Henerfauth, a member of the Conference Gatherings Team for getting it onto the shirts for us. If you are interested in having one of the shirts, click here for the order form or place the order form in your church bulletin!! Cost is \$20 per shirt.



Years ago I came across a beautiful version of Micah 6:8 from the Talmud. This past week as we received news of more hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes these words immediately came to mind:

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now.

Walk humbly, now.

You are not obligated to complete the work,

But neither are you free to abandon it."

The destruction and devastation our brothers and sisters have faced and will continue to face is enormous. In moments such as this, the world's grief can be daunting. Yet, the message of Micah reminds us to consider what the Lord indeed requires of us as people of faith.

What is required is not inaction, indecision, or the wringing of our hands. Yet, what is required is also not knee jerk reactions, quick solutions and pithy proclamations. Micah's challenge is for us to consider the ways we can show forth justice, love, and mercy by walking humbly alongside our God and those who are suffering and in need.

What resonates deeply with me about the Talmud's version of Micah 6:8 is that it reminds us that we are required; we are called to respond now. We are called to do something now even if we cannot completely solve the problem or eliminate all suffering.

So what can we in the Illinois South Conference do?

- 1) Continue to support the work of the UCC Disaster Ministries. Recently, we sent \$54,000 from the Mittendorf fund directly to the UCC Disaster Ministries and now these monies will be used towards the relief work for those who have suffered the effects of recent hurricanes, fires and earthquakes.
- 2) Get involved with ISC workdays. Our first workday will be Thursday, September 21 at St. John UCC, Collinsville (Specifics of this event can be found in this issue of Weekly Connection) as we will assemble Church World Service emergency clean up buckets. We will be planning more workdays in the coming months. (Stay tuned for more information)
- 3) Look for other opportunities to be in service and share your ideas, your time and your talents with others in the Conference as we organize and plan events in the days, months and years to come. Recovery work takes a great deal of time and effort. Long after the news reporters leave and those who are not dealing with these realities move on, recovery work will still be done.

May each of us remember, we "are not obligated to complete the work," but likewise we are not "free to abandon it." Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

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

September 17

Preaching at Immanuel UCC, Carlyle for their 150th Anniversary

September 24

Preaching at St. John's UCC, Johannisburg for their 180th Anniversary and Preaching at Zion UCC, Addieville

October 8

Preaching at Friedens UCC, Irvington

I am currently planning my worship schedule for December 2017 into 2018. 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 date. You can also send me an email at sjohnson@iscucc.org. I look forward to meeting you and sharing in worship with you. Your OCWM monies at work.



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. Click <u>here</u> for all delegate materials. Click <u>here</u> to register online.

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.

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 <u>here</u> to download registration form.

Register online. Lunch at noon.

Attention ISC Church Delegates!!

Pre-meeting Gatherings Will Explain Decisions to Be Made at Annual Meeting

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.)

A Boundary Training has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 8 at Zion UCC, New Baden. Notices have been sent to those pastors who are due for their renewal of this training in 2017, so check your emails. The training will be conducted by Rev. Shana Johnson. For any of you who are out of the area and/or plan on taking boundary training through another conference, please mail/email the certificate of completion to the office. Click here for the registration form.

DuBois Center News

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

WORLD PEACE DAY - September 21

The International Day of Peace, sometimes known as World Peace Day, is observed annually on September 21. First celebrated in 1982, it is dedicated to world peace and specifically the absence of war and violence. It might be too late to get special events on our calendars for this year, but perhaps, we can all very intentionally hold the ideals of peace and justice for all in our hearts this week and next.



"Peace begins with a smile." ~ Mother Teresa

"Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and cooperation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace." ~ *President Dwight D. Eisenhower*



NEW DOCK & DECK

Just in time for Fall Festival and the autumn boating season - the new Oak Lodge dock and deck are complete! Additional improvements are planned for the coming months. New benches will be built and after the deck has a chance to season, it will be painted or stained. This project was funded by designated gifts from St. John's UCC in Plum Hill (\$4,000) and a variety of other churches and individuals. The volunteers hailed from seven ISC churches - Church of the Good Shepherd – Carbondale; EvUCC – Highland; Grantfork UCC; St. John UCC – Mascoutah; Zion

UCC – Marion; Zion UCC - New Baden; and Zoar UCC - New Hanover. Thanks to Rev. RJ Morgan for pulling this project together and for the finishing touches. Thanks to the ISC Property Committee and all the hard-working volunteers - Rev. Elmer Bowman, Rev. Louis Fluck, Aaron, Susan & Harmon Fuchs, Stan Giffhorn, Nathan Kampwerth, Janet McCready, Rev. RJ Morgan, Dave Payne, Bob Schrumpf, Rich Schrumpf and Glenn Woodcock.



Fall Festival VOLUNTEERS Needed!

Add a service component to your Fall Festival experience! This annual event is DuBois Center's largest one-day event of the year and would not be possible without the efforts of scores of volunteers. Please help

us make this event a success! Volunteers are needed to prep and serve food, paint faces, supervise crafts and activities in the Kidz Korner, catch pontoon boats, walk horses in the arena, take tickets, assist guests in the Upscale Resale Shop and serve as cashiers. If you are

Fall Activities Brochure

Hot off the presses and soon to be delivered to churches and homes near you is our Fall Activities Brochure. Make time to take in the



beauty of the season at DuBois Center. From work days to retreats and our annual Fall Festival, there's something for everyone! Click here for the retreat registration form.

Mother & Daughter Retreat October 13-15

Calling all Mothers, Daughters, Grandmothers, Aunts, Nieces and all the other significant girls and women in your life! Join us for a weekend away, a weekend



interested in volunteering, contact Norma Borgmann at nborgmann1658@charter.net or 618-292-4617, or DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Church groups, families, individuals, Scout troops, youth needing service hours - lend a hand for a couple hours or for the full day!



to laugh, play, create and worship together. In our GO-GO-GO world, it's often difficult to find quality time together. You are invited to breathe, slow down and spend real time with the great women in your life. Engaging activities, inspiring God time, meals without cooking, wonderful fellowship - all are part of this weekend escape. Participate in everything or choose a more relaxed weekend. Either way, the focus of this retreat is on building relationships and making memories with loved ones! Register by Friday, Sept 21 and save \$10 per person. Early Bird Rates: \$106 for adults, \$90 for 12-17 years olds, and \$80 for 4-11 year olds. There is an additional charge for horseback riding. Registration is now open. Check out this flyer and RSVP form or register online.

SWEET TREATS!

It's hard to imagine Fall Festival without a wonderful variety of treats to tempt one's sweet tooth. 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 Shoppe. It's not too late to invite friends and family to a baking party. 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.



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.



CRAZY QUILT

This week's featured quilt is a "Crazy Quilt." Measuring 58" x 58", it's perfect for a lap quilt or decorative wall hanging or throw. It was machine-pieced and hand-tied. The square block design depicts a colorful mix of favorite camp activities. This fanciful beauty was crafted by Sandy Jakes, mother of Outdoor Ministries Team member Carolyn Palmer. Sandy collects fun fabric throughout the year and then creates themed crazy quilts for friends and family. For this treasure, she searched specialty fabric sites online and dug down deep into her fabric baskets. If you or someone you know is a fan of s'mores, campfires, horses, canoes, archery, songs around the campfire and the great outdoors - then this Crazy for Camp quilt is perfect! Help us spread the word with this flyer and these tickets. The drawing for this quilt and two

others will be at DuBois Center's Fall Festival on Sunday, October 1. Tickets and payment must be received at DuBois Center by 2 pm the day of the event.

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!





Deaconess Nurse Ministry nurses have set a goal to administer 500 flu shots to low income adults throughout the St. Louis region this fall. And, while the medication is provided to them for free, the Deaconess Nurse Ministry team must purchase the needles, alcohol wipes, band aids, gloves, and other supplies needed for

the service. These supplies are projected to cost \$2,000 this year.

Help them provide the gift of better health to those low income adults who would not be able to receive a free shot without services from Deaconess Nurse Ministry. You can provide a single flu shot and the support needed to administer for just \$4. Click here to donate.

The St. Paul's Senior Community will celebrate its 90th Anniversary with a dinner auction gala, *A Celebration - 90 Years of Faithful Caring*, on Fri, Sept 29 at the St. Clair Country Club at 6:30 pm. The cost of reservations is \$90 per person and includes a complimentary welcome



cocktail, served hors d'oeuvres and sit down dinner. Mr. Roger Wigginton will be Master of Ceremonies; Mr. David Schumacher will be the Auctioneer; and musical entertainment will be provided by Twilight Band.

The event is to benefit the St. Paul's Senior Community Foundation. As a not-for-profit, faith based entity, St. Paul's Senior Community is a vital component in the care for senior citizens in the Belleville Area. Located at 1021 West E Street in Belleville, St. Paul's Senior Community offers retirement living, assisted living, memory care, Medicare rehabilitation and skilled nursing care.

Reservation deadline is Mon, Sept 25. Please contact Sandy Wagner 618-560-9491 or skwagner51@gmail.com for reservations.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

The St. Paul UCC in Waterloo introduces its St. Paul Fine Arts Concerts.

Here is the line-up:

Sun, Oct 1 - 2 pm - Vocal Edge, a St. Louis A Capella group. Includes classic pop songs, jazz, doo--wop and holiday favorites

Sun Dec 17 - 2 pm - St. Paul Orchestra Christmas Concert prepares you for the holidays.

Sun, Jan 21, 2018 - 2 pm - Mark Parker & Shannon O'Heron offer songs from many genres.

Sun, March 18 - 2 pm - Heather Sorenson, vocalist, composer, arranger, and pianist, presents Spiritual & Gospel favorites.

Sun, May 20 - 2 pm - *Gary Humphrey & Friends* take you on a musical journey through the Great American Songbook.

No cost to attend. A free-will offering will be taken. Click here for a flyer.

This is a warm and friendly invitation to retired pastors and spouses in Illinois South Conference to join in good conversation and fellowship over a lunch meal on Thursday, September 28 at 11:30 am at the Red Apple Restaurant in Maryville on IL 159. Our Pastors Fellowship normally meets on the 4th Thursday noon of the fall, winter and spring months as an intentional way of keeping closely connected with friends and colleagues. We welcome newcomers as well as familiar faces from last year. To make reservations, please email or telephone Herb & Bennie Schafale at herbenne@wisperhome.com or 618-476-3925 no later than September 26.



Winter Weekend 2018 packets have been emailed to each of the churches and youth leaders. The event will take place on January 13-15, 2018 at DuBois Center. The theme for this year is "Seeing Clearly: No conflict between faith and science" (it's a re-do of WW17 that was cancelled due to weather). We hope you will share this packet with your senior high youth and encourage them to attend this faith-filled and relationship-building event! If you would like the packet in hard-copy format, let us know at cpursell@iscucc.org or 618-654-2125. Click here for the full packet. Here if you need the DCFS fillable form.

Job Opportunity

St. John UCC, Mascoutah seeks a keyboard/piano accompanist for their Choir and vocal ensembles. It is a part-time position that would work with their Director of Music, Christina Kruger. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings (September through mid-May) and two or three Sundays per month (both services). Contact St. John at office@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@stjohneucc.org.

The Insurance Board offers free Webinars

Here's what's happening soon... **How to Avoid Background Screening Litigation** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 - 2 pm to 3 pm (Eastern Time) - More information here.

Region 1 Region 4 Region 8 On Sept 30, the 2nd Annual Oktoberfest at Zion UCC's east lawn in Marion will run from 11 Region 4 Region 8 Trenton St. John UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sun, Oct 1 from 11 am - 6 pm. Adults \$10; Children 10

am - 3 pm. Great German meal with live music by the German Waterloo Band. Adults \$12, Families \$30 (2 adults/kids under 12). German, Belgium and domestic beer available by separate ticket. Castle bounce house and games for the kids. Raffle with 4 great prizes, too.

Region 2

Friedens UCC in Hecker will hold a BBQ at the Red Bud IGA parking lot in Hecker on Sat, Sept 16 from 11 am - 2 pm. Menu includes pork steaks and bratwurst, homemade sides of potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans. Carry outs only.

Region 3

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 guarters 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 CASH ONLY paddle. NO CHECKS.

St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will hold its Wurst-Markt on Thurs, Oct 19 from 11 am - 7 pm. Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, butter beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, applesauce, bread, and pie. Adults \$10; Children 6 - 12 years \$5; Children under 6 Free. Christmas Bazaar, Crafts & Nut Sales. Sausage orders by Oct 9. Pick-up on Oct 18 from 11 am - 6 pm. Call 618-344-2526.

eat family-style deep fried buffalo fish & tender roast beef, whole potatoes in brown beef gravy, slaw with homemade dressing, green beans with bacon, potato homemade 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.

Wood River St. John UCC will hold their Annual Fall Salad Luncheon, Bake Sale & Quilt Raffle on Thurs, Sept 21 from 11 am - 2 pm. Menu includes a variety of delicious salads. homemade baked goods and coffee or tea. Adults \$9; Children ages 6-10 \$4.50; and Children 5 & under are FREE. Mastercard & Visa accepted. Carry-outs and available handicap accessible. For more info, call 618-254-6682.

Region 5

The Evangelical UCC in Highland will hold its Chicken Dinner on Sun, Sept 17 from 11 am - 4:30 pm in the dining room and 11 am - 5 pm for carry outs. Adults \$10; Children 4 - 11 years \$5; Children 3 and under Free. All carry outs \$10.

Region 8

St. John UCC in Mascoutah will hold a Rummage Sale on Sept 30 from 8 am until 12 pm. No prices given. Free-Will Donation Only! All proceeds benefit the Mascoutah Food Pantry! Any questions, call Rachael 618-719-9702.

years and younger \$4. All carry outs \$10.

Matthew Smith & Indelible Grace will perform at 6:30 pm on Fri, Sept 29 at St. Paul's UCC in Freeburg. He is a Nashville-based singer-songwriter who writes brand new melodies to centuries-old hymn texts. His latest album is *Quiet Hymns*. Click here for more information.

Following the evening's worship concert, Matthew Smith will lead a seminar on hymn writing at 8:15 pm.

Tickets are \$10 in advance (buy 4 get 5th ticket free) or \$12 at the door. Call the church office at 618-539-3262.

Region 9

Concordia UCC will hold its 16th Annual Dinner Auction, Sat, Oct 14 at The Quail Club in Belleville. Doors open at 6 pm. Silent Auction from 6-8pm. Oral Auction at 8 pm. Cost is \$25 per person. For more information, click here to email the secretary or here for a flyer.

St. John UCC in Fairview Heights will hold Polka Communion Sunday



on Oct 1 at 10 am. This day is World Communion Sunday and it will be a fresh view of communion as Polka Connection will lead you in singing hymn words to polka tunes during the Sunday worship service. All are welcome.