

Weekly Connection

For the Week of September 24, 2017 - September 30, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...



Hookdale St. Peter UCC carries the light of Christ into the world.

After they sang the last song, "Light Up Your World," the congregation filed outside with their "lights," ready for action.



Hoyleton Youth and Family Services Expanding its Reach to Aide in Hurricane Harvey Cleanup

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services has been in the business of helping children and families throughout Illinois for over 120 years. Now, we would like to extend our outreach to include our friends and family in Texas as they continue to sort through the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services (HYFS) and the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ (ISCUCC) are teaming up in an effort to gather and ship over 500 emergency cleanup buckets to South East Texas. Supplies (restricted solely to the items on the attached [list](#)) are being gathered now through September 20 at local United Church of Christ Churches in Illinois and at the Hoyleton Youth and Family Services office located at 8 Executive Drive, Suite 200, Fairview Heights, IL.

On Thursday, September 21 staff from HYFS along with volunteers from Illinois South Conference churches will gather at St. John Evangelical UCC at 307 West Clay Street, Collinsville to sort the items, build buckets and prepare them for shipping. The buckets will then be shipped to a sister church in Texas courtesy of Stock Transport of Lebanon, IL.

If you would like additional information regarding Hoyleton Youth and Family Services please contact Molly Ronsick, Public Relations Coordinator at 618-688-4774 or by email at mronsick@hoyleton.org

For additional information on the Illinois South Conference efforts, contact Priscilla Self at pjj48@hotmail.com or 618-318-0083.



International Day of Peace Celebrated in Waterloo

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of

peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The theme for 2017 is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All."

This year, the International Day of Peace will focus on engaging and mobilizing people throughout the world to show support for refugees and migrants. Its messages will be shared with communities hosting refugees and migrants as well as people concerned that refugees and migrants may bring physical and economic insecurity to their lives.

In Waterloo, Illinois anyone who is interested is invited to meet at the Courthouse at 3 pm on Thursday, September 21, on the city sidewalk on the west side of the Courthouse. We will have time for brief reflections, prayers and a march around

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
Sept 24 - Sept 30, 2017
Churches & Pastors

- Godfrey Evangelical UCC, Rev. Jerald (Lori) McCaskey
- Granite City St. John UCC,

the Courthouse. Comments and thoughts are welcomed from any participants. Read the entire [article](#).

Rev. Karla (Rev. Charles Preston) Frost
Retired Pastor
- Rev. Herbert & Bennie Schafale, Belleville, IL.

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Nancy (Rev. Bob) Tripp as she 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.

Find out [more](#) about the recovery efforts in Houston.
How you can help in ISC...

Clean Up Bucket day will be Thursday, September 21, at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville 307 W. Clay St., Collinsville IL 62234
Drop off the specific items for the buckets by 9:00 am Click [here](#) for a list of materials needed.

Assembly of buckets begins at 10:00 am.
If your church is making completed buckets, bring them between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

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 in Texas that are accepting the clean-up buckets and hygiene kits to be distributed. Priscilla Self will contact them to see where the most need is at that time.

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

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

September 23

Sharing worship at the Confirmation Retreat

September 24

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

October 8

Preaching at Friedens UCC, Irvington

October 22

Worship at Fieldon UCC

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.

Dear Church...

Recently, I came across a wonderful article from the Christian Century entitled "Do You Actually Want to Be Our Pastor?" The article features an excerpt from a book *Love Big, Be Well: Letters to a Small-Town Church*, in which a search committee writes an honest letter to potential pastoral candidates and one potential candidate writes back an equally honest letter in response. Below is a link to the original article and I encourage you to [read it](#).

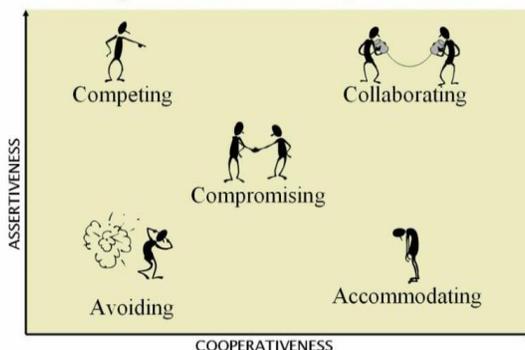
What I love about this piece is it is not simply about a search committee and a potential pastoral candidate, but rather it speaks to the longing I believe all people have, even pastors, to be a part of a church that truly reflects the complexity, the messiness and the beauty of communal life.

Too often, we hold on to the unrealistic notion and ideal that to be the church means that all is perfect. There will be no conflict, no hard moments; no disappointments and everyone will be on their best behavior.

It is why people are often disillusioned by church life. Yet, the truth is that to be the church means we are called by God to come together as the unique people God has created us to be. In our togetherness, there will be difficult moments because we all come with different expectations, different experiences, different perspectives, and different needs to learn how to accept, appreciate and love those who are different than us.

It is a hard assignment and we will never do it perfectly. In fact, the only way the church could ever be perfect is if there were no people.

Dealing With Conflict - Thomas/Kilmann model



In many ways being the church means entering into the holy experiment of learning TOGETHER how to be more Christ like.

In the apostle Paul's letter to the churches in Rome, he writes what this holy experiment of being the church, of being the body of Christ looks like.

In Romans 12, verses 9-21, Paul writes about what that transformation can look like when the focus is not on ourselves, but instead in being in humble service in the body of Christ.

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

¹⁶Live in harmony with one another.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

¹⁹Do not take revenge,

²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

I think Romans 12 is one of the most beautiful passages that offers us a template for what it means to be the church. Although, it sounds a bit daunting, it comes down to one thing-LOVE.

Just like the fictitious letters featured in the Christian Century article, there is essentially one question we have in looking for a true church home--Will you love me?

If people visiting our churches were to write honest letters of what they are seeking in a church, their letters might read something like this:

Dear potential church,

Will you show me love, acceptance, and forgiveness?

Will you love me enough that I can be myself without fear of being judged, shunned or turned away?

Will I be able to be honest about every part of my life?

Will you look at me only as someone who can serve on a committee?

Or someone whose children can up your attendance in Sunday School or youth group?

Or someone whose offering might help balance the budget?

Or will you look at me as someone you can grow alongside of?

Someone you can cry with? Someone you can curse the darkness with?

And ultimately someone who can be a trusted friend to share in the journey of faith?

Hopefully,

A potential new member

Blessings, Shana

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 [here](#) to download registration form.

Register [online](#). Lunch at noon.



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



FALL WORK DAYS - Sept 29 & 30, Nov 4

Enjoy a fresh fall day amid the tall oaks at DuBois Center! Stretch your muscles! Make a difference! Plan now to gather friends, family or a group from your church for a day of service. Projects vary depending on current needs, the weather and the skills of the volunteers. Our list is growing and already includes painting, cleaning, weeding, raking, cleaning, tree & brush removal and fence work. On Friday and Saturday, Sept 29 & 30, we'll set-up and prep the grounds for Fall Festival. On

Saturday, Nov 4, we'll attack whatever is left on our list. For more information contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

HELP PROMOTE - Fall Festival & DuBois Center

The DuBois Center's 41st Annual Fall Festival is just around the corner and your help is needed to spread the word!

Date: Sunday, October 1.

Time: 11 am - 5 pm.

There will be food, music, craft booths, hayrides, horses, boat tours, kidz krafts and more - something for the whole family! Here's what you can do to help promote:

- Post [flyers](#) around your church and community.
- Print and use this [piece](#) as a bulletin insert or handout.
- Make announcements during services and meetings.
- Put this [link](#) to our Fall Festival web page on your web site and in bulletins.
- Promote the event on your church's outdoor SIGN BOARD.
- Submit information to your local community newspaper or newsletter.
- Make it a CHURCH EVENT! Promote attendance and/or volunteering as a church or church group.

Thanks in advance for your support of DuBois Center and our annual Fall Festival!



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 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!

MOMS & DAUGHTERS

October 13-15

Early Bird Deadline: Fri, Sept 22

Get away and re-energize your relationship with your daughter, mother, granddaughter, niece, aunt or other special woman or girl in your life. Enjoy a playful, faith-based weekend together, one packed with engaging activities, inspiring God times, meals without cooking and wonderful fellowship. All ages are welcome, but most activities are geared for girls and women age six and older. There's still time to sign-up, but the deadline is quickly approaching. Register by Friday, Sept 22 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](#).



RUSTIC STAR QUILT

Beautiful quilts are an integral part of DuBois Center's annual Fall Festival. Each year, lovingly crafted treasures are donated for a drawing. This week's featured quilt is twin size (66" x 86") and has a Rustic Star pattern. The colors are perfect for the season with stars of honey, gray & navy patterned material with rust-colored accents. The navy and white border is the perfect finishing touch. This beauty was hand-pieced & quilted by Sarah Moore, a member at Bethel UCC in Cahokia. This is Sarah's second Fall Festival quilt. This year's drawing features three unique options. The owner of the first ticket drawn gets first pick of a quilt. The drawing will be held at the Fall Festival on Sunday, October 1 at 4:30 pm. You need not be present to win. Help spread the word with this flyer and these tickets. Tickets and payment must be received at DuBois Center by 2 pm the day of the event.



WRANGLE & RIDE - Saturday, Nov. 11

Let's hit the trails! Join our equestrian team on Saturday, November 11 from 9am - 5pm for a day with the DuBois Center herd! Wrangle & Ride is designed for adults and youth age 12 and up. Spend a horse intensive day - grooming, tacking, riding and enjoying other horse-related activities, all while experiencing

God and creation in the great outdoors. The cost is \$60 with lunch included. Register by October 21 and save \$5. Final deadline is October 29, but don't delay - space is limited. For more time in the saddle, this event is limited to the first 12 who register! Online registration is now open. For more information or to register by mail, check out this [flyer](#) or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

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

Back Bay Mission Speaks about Disaster Relief

Over the last several weeks, we at Back Bay Mission have watched as our friends and neighbors have been pummeled by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. These include people in Texas and Florida, as well as Louisiana, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Haiti, and other parts of the United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Our hearts are broken by the heavy losses that people have suffered, and we are praying for everyone who has been affected by these storms.

As residents of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, a place that was all but forgotten in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we know first-hand that every natural disaster is also a human disaster. People have and will lose their savings, their homes, their possessions, their jobs, and their lives. And the poor and marginalized will bear the costs of these storms disproportionately. Not just today but in the years to come.

We also know that recovery time is not measured in weeks or months. It is measured in years. The people and communities affected by these hurricanes need our care. Harvey and Irma are tests of our nation's willingness to provide long-term support for people impacted by a communal disaster.

At Back Bay Mission, we stand in solidarity with our friends and neighbors in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, and anywhere else that must endure disasters like Harvey and Irma. We stand in solidarity especially with the poor, marginalized, and forgotten... the people who won't be seen on news broadcasts or mentioned in reports, but who will suffer the harshest effects of these storms.

As a community ministry of the United Church of Christ, we hope that you will help the people affected by these hurricanes through a gift to our friends at the United Church of Christ's Disaster Ministries (in addition to your regular gift to Back Bay Mission). They supported us for years after Hurricane Katrina, and they will be in Houston, Florida, and other places for years after the news trucks and emergency management teams leave.

Together, we can love the communities affected by these storms back to life. We can strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives not only on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but everywhere that there is need.



Executive Director of St. John's Community Care to sit on panel for Alzheimer's educational program, Understanding Alzheimer's Program, presented by the Alzheimer's Association on Thursday, October 12 at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Edwardsville.

The program will consist of an overview of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Participants will view clips from the PBS documentary special "Alzheimer's: Every Minute Counts" and engage in a panel discussion.

Panelists include Nancy Berry, Executive Director of St. John's Community Care; John Becker, Executive Director of Senior Services Plus in Alton; and Linda Perry, an Alzheimer's caregiver.

"We want to raise awareness of programs and services available to Edwardsville and the surrounding communities" said Elyse Murrell, Alzheimer's Association Education and Outreach Manager. "This is an opportunity for families to get connected and get their questions answered."

Visit the education page at alz.org/greatermissouri to learn more about the education program and other educational opportunities in the area or click [here](#) for a flyer.

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



St. Paul's Senior Community

A Place You Can Have Faith In

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...

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.



A Blessing Box/Little Free Food Pantry - 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.

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



Attention ISC Church Delegates!!

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

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.

Belleville St. Paul UCC's Fine Arts Ministry

Ivory&Gold® the musical duo of Anne and Jeff Barnhart will perform at St. Paul UCC in Belleville at 7 pm on **Sat, Sept 30** and during Sunday worship on **Oct 1** at 9 am.

Ivory&Gold® celebrates the greatest examples of American jazz, blues, ragtime, Broadway and hits from the Great American Songbook. Internationally renowned performer and historian Max Morath calls them "musically flawless." In addition to performances in the UK, Europe, Israel and Africa, their many area venues include the Scott Joplin House in St. Louis, the Finke Theater in California, the Scott Joplin Festival in Sedalia, Ragtime Revelry in Kansas City and the Lake of the Ozarks Jazz Club in Osage Beach.

For more information and directions to St. Paul UCC, go to stpaulucc.org. Click [here](#) for a poster.

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 will take place on January 13-15, 2018 at DuBois Center. The theme 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.



Region 1

On Sept 30, the 2nd Annual Oktoberfest at Zion UCC's east lawn in Marion will run from 11 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.

DuQuoin St. John's UCC will hold its Sausage Supper on Sat, Oct 14 from 4 pm - 7 pm. You may also order sausage to be picked up on Thurs, Oct 12 or Sat, Oct 14. Call the church to order at 618-542-3431.

Region 2

Red Bud St. Peter's UCC will host its All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner on Sat, Oct 14 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Menu includes spaghetti, bottomless bowl of Rich and Charlie's Salad, Bread, Cheesecake and drinks. Adults \$11; Children 5 - 12 years \$4; Children 4 and under Free. Country Store. Carryouts available.

Region 3

St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will hold its Wurst-Markt on Thurs, Oct 19 from 11 am - 7 pm. Buffet-style 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. Carry outs available. Sponsored by St. John's Men's Fellowship. Sausage orders by Oct 9. Pick-up on Oct 18 from 11 am - 6 pm. Call 618-344-2526.

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.

Godfrey Congregational Church will hold its SALAD LUNCHEON on Thurs, Sept 21 from 11 am to 1:30 pm. Delicious Variety of salads, desserts and drink. Donation \$8. Door prizes drawn every half hour. Quilt drawing at 1:30 pm.

Ugandan Thunder 2017 will perform at Evangelical UCC on Wed, Sept 20 at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome. A free-will offering will be taken.

Godfrey Evangelical UCC will hold its Fall Festival Bazaar on Thurs, Oct 5 from 9 am - 2 pm. There will be a themed basket raffle, bakery, books, bangles & more. **The Salad Luncheon the same day will be from 11 am - 1 pm.** Luncheon tickets sold in advance or at the door for \$10 donation. Carry-outs available.

Region 8

St. John UCC in New Athens will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sun, Sept 25 from 11 am - 2 pm. Fresh, all you care to eat pork sausage, green beans, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, corn, drink and dessert. Adults \$12; Children \$6.

Region 8

Trenton St. John UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sun, Oct 1 from 11 am - 6 pm. Adults \$10; Children 10 years and younger \$4. All carry outs \$10.

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.

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.

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

Region 4

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 available and handicap accessible. For more info, call 618-254-6682.

St. John's UCC-Midway will host the Ugandan Children's Choir during worship on Sun, Sept 24 at 10:10 am. Come and see this extraordinary group of young people as they show forth their love for God.

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.

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.