

# Weekly Connection

For the Week of October 1, 2017 - October 7, 2017  
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

## The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...



### HURRICANE HARVEY CLEAN-UP BUCKETS

by Priscilla Self, Disaster Relief Coordinator

As Hurricane Harvey was finally leaving the Texas area, Priscilla Self, ISC Disaster Coordinator, Chris Cox, President/CEO and Rev. Mike Southcombe, Board Chairperson of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, and the ISC Highland office staff were collaborating on how the Illinois South Conference and Hoyleton Youth & Family Services could respond.

On September 21, volunteers gathered at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville to assemble 93 CWS Clean-Up Buckets for Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response. At the same time, ISC church members dropped off completed Clean-Up Buckets and extra supplies from their congregations. By 2 pm, 469 Clean-Up buckets and two pallets of extra cleaning supplies were loaded onto the Stock Transport truck. These items would be delivered to St. Paul UCC in Corpus Christi, Texas to be distributed to Harvey victims in that area including Rockport and Port Aransas.

Thanks and appreciations go out to the above named and:

- ISC Congregations and Hoyleton Youth & Family Services for financial and supply donations
- All the volunteers, from the beginning to the completion of this effort
- Rev. Katie Jo Bielke, Amy Rhymer, Rev. Marvin Morgan, and St. John Evangelical UCC, Collinsville for their time, hospitality and use of facilities
- Ray Ferrero of Collinsville
- St. John Evangelical UCC for organizing their facilities and the Home Depot supplies
- Stock Transport of Lebanon for donating the truck and driver
- Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose, Pastor of St. Paul UCC in Corpus Christi for facilitating the delivery and distribution of these supplies to those in need.

There is, and will be, much Disaster Ministries response work to do in the years to come. You will be hearing and presented with more opportunities to do just that. Please open your hearts, minds, resources, hands and feet to respond to



## Important Links

[iscucc.org/](http://iscucc.org/)

[duboiscenter.org](http://duboiscenter.org)

[ucc.org](http://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

**Oct 1 - Oct 7, 2017**

### **Churches & Pastors**

- Granite City St. Peter's UCC,  
Pastor Andy (Kristin) Wilson,  
Student Pastor

- Grantfork UCC, Rev. Tim  
(Rev. Janet) Darmour-Paul

our "neighbors" in need.



Blessing the supplies for buckets. Many hands make light work. More teamwork to fill the buckets. Filling the trucks with buckets.

**Staunton St. Paul UCC and community youth (Exhale Youth Group)** were the driving force behind their contribution of 35 Clean-Up Buckets and \$425 for extra supplies to fill more.



- Hamel Immanuel UCC, Rev. Christy (Donald) Eckert  
**Retired Pastor**  
- Rev. E. John Schaller, Fairview Heights, 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.

- Pray for Jeanne (Arnold) Meyer as she deals with serious health issues. Jeanne is a member of Highland Evangelical UCC and the sister of Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Coommunications Coordinator.

- Keep the family of Gene (Mary) Bergmann in your prayers as Gene deals with serious health issues from a fall. He is the brother of Shirley Bergmann, ISC Treasurer and Finance Coordinator.

### **A Letter from UCC Disaster Relief about Harvey & Irma**

Dear Friends,

Please continue to check the [website](#) as the team in Cleveland has been working hard to keep things fresh. We continue to do our best to field calls and emails as well as maintain as much situational awareness on the various disasters our country and world are facing so that we can respond in appropriate impactful ways. Please continue to keep everyone in prayer and share our deepest appreciation and sincere gratitude with those that are donating, praying and serving. Their support IS making a difference in the lives of families. Thank You!

- We are ready for volunteers to support Irma (and Matthew) recovery work in Volusia County, FL.

- We have partnered with the Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders in TX to support muck and gut work. Information will soon be posted at [www.ucc.org/disaster](http://www.ucc.org/disaster) volunteer opportunities page.
- One of our Disaster Recovery Support Team members is in TX working with FEMA to provide additional support for Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) development.
- We have provided a solidarity grant to a Global Ministries partner in working in Mexico since the earthquake.
- We are staying in close contact with our network connections to Puerto Rico but have received very little information directly from the island due to lack of power and compromised communications infrastructure. In addition, the Conference Ministers, Conference Disaster Coordinators, and UCC national staff are providing support and coordination around the responses.

#### **Hurricane Harvey**

- One UCC congregation in Texas had flood damage and is receiving support
- \$2,000 solidarity/emergency grant was given to St. Paul UCC in Corpus Christi, TX for emergency food distribution in nearby Port Aransas
- Training and support provided by national staff for local UCC pastors resourcing their communities with information on how to access available assistance through the Red Cross, local, state, and national sources
- Long-term recovery plans are being created and launched

#### **Hurricane Irma**

- At least 2 UCC congregations in Florida lost steeples in Hurricane Irma and are receiving support
- \$1,500 solidarity/emergency grant to the Miami Shores Community Church, UCC which is supporting the purchase of a generator, fuel, gas stoves for community cooking, and purchasing and distributing ice
- \$10,000 to IMA World Health for their proactive program to prevent cholera and malnutrition in Haiti in the wake of Hurricane Irma, and to treat any instances that occur
- \$10,000 to Global Ministries partners in Cuba with the distribution of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene products and programs), temporary shelter, non-food emergency items like blankets or medicine, help around food security (damaged crops), recovery/livelihoods, and psycho-social support
- \$10,000 to Church World Service in Northern Haiti where homes that were weakened by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 have now sustained additional damage

#### **Zach Wolgemuth Executive, UCC Disaster Ministries**

[www.ucc.org/disaster](http://www.ucc.org/disaster) , 700 Prospect Ave. E., Cleveland, OH 44115



#### **FINDING A QUICK FIX!!**

A man ran an ad for a system guaranteed to cut your bills in half. He claimed his system required no seminars, no training, and no legal fees. It was quick and easy solution. He promised that for \$29.99 any and every bill could be cut in half. Unfortunately, people were disillusioned when they received their kit in the mail. In fact, there were so many complaints that the authorities did an investigation and they discovered the kit only contained one thing. What was the one thing the kit contained?? A pair of scissors.

Yes, for \$29.99 plus postage and handling the man would send people something that would cut their bills in half, but not in the way they wanted. Due to the pressure from dissatisfied customers, authorities eventually charged the man with mail fraud.

Yet, here is what I really want to know. Why did so many people send \$29.99 plus postage and handling without any knowledge or information about what he was selling except empty promises? Actually, I think I know the answer. Honestly, I see it all too often in the Church.

Too often out of frustration, out of desperation, or out of fear of not knowing where else to turn, we talk ourselves into looking for a quick fix. We convince ourselves that there must be an easy answer. We sell ourselves on the notion that there must be a simple solution. We quickly buy into the idea that there must be a plan of action that will immediately solve all of our problems in one easy step.

The most unfortunate thing is that when we buy into immediate actions to solve complex situations, we often cut God out of the equation all together. When we do not allow ourselves the time and space to seek God's guidance, wisdom, and direction, we can run the risk of making hasty decisions that are not only short sighted, but can be downright un-Christ like and will eventually cause more problems and pain in the end.

The truth is the promise of a quick fix is always an empty promise. Complex problems do not arise immediately, and they cannot be solved immediately. I believe the best practice and the most faithful practice in facing such problems is to first slow down, breathe, and invite the presence of God into the decision process.

The invitation of the divine will often mean the invitation for all of us to take a step back and be willing to wait until we are fully ready to listen to one another and ready to listen to the still speaking voice of God in our midst. Such resting

and waiting upon the divine as well as the ability to listen to one another and to God at the deepest level enables God to speak to us and transform our minds, hearts, and spirits to make decisions that are more faithful.

The next time we are tempted to act too quickly, too hastily in reaction to difficult situations that arise, I pray that we will not cut God out of our discernment and decision processes. For the promise of which the Apostle Paul reminded the churches in Corinth is still true for us today. It is not an empty promise.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:7

Blessings, Shana

**SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU**

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

**October 2**

Preaching at St. John UCC, Valmeyer

**October 8**

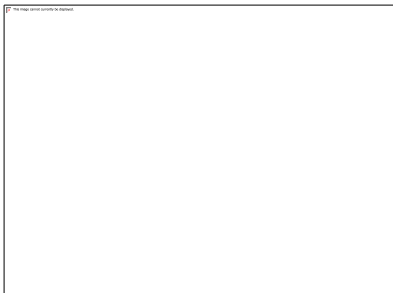
Preaching at Friedens UCC, Irvington

**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](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org). I look forward to meeting you and sharing in worship with you.

**Your OCWM monies at work.**



The Center for Progressive Renewl presents **A Progressive Christian Songcrafting Retreat on November 16-18 at Woodmont Christian Church, 3601 Hillsboro Pike in Nashville, Tennessee.** It is sponsored by Interlude Retreats and the Convergence Music Project. Presenters are Ken Medema, Bryan Johnson, Bryan Sirchio, Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan, Andra Moran, and Christopher Grundy. Early-bird pricing through September 30, 2017 at \$219 (regularly \$249). This conference is for all songwriters who feel called to create new music for worship and community singing that reflects a more just and generous expression of the Christian faith. If you long to write new songs that will help congregations embrace biblically based themes such as social justice, extravagant welcome, radical

inclusion, a commitment to honoring the earth and it's ecosystems, and the unconditional Love at the heart of the Gospel, this conference is for you! Click [here](#) for more information.



**Register NOW!! Deadline is October 3!!**

**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. **Deadline is October 3.**



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

**HELP PROMOTE**

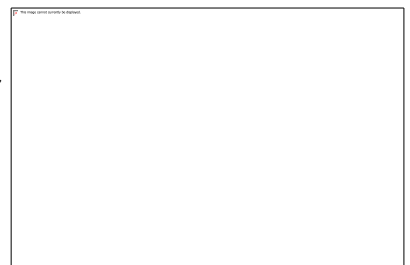
**Fall Festival & DuBois Center**

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 kraits 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!



### QUILT DRAWING

Five days and counting until the annual Fall Festival at DuBois Center and the much anticipated Quilt Drawing. This year three beautiful and unique quilts have been donated. Thanks to Lucille Brandt, Sandy Jakes, Sarah Moore, Robert & Linda Schmidt and the quilters at St. Paul UCC in Columbia. The first ticket drawn wins first pick of the quilts. Three tickets will be drawn for three winners. You need not be present to win. Help **spread the word!** Click for [tickets](#) and a [flyer](#) with photos. Tickets with payment must be received at Fall Festival THIS SUNDAY in the camp office or at the quilt table in Oak Lodge by 2 pm. The drawing will be at 4:30 pm.

**SWEET SHOPPE** Looking for an excuse to bake? The Sweet Shoppe at Fall Festival is still in need of donations. Kristen Belcher, Melissa Nehrt and the members of St. Jacob UCC have done an amazing job organizing the Sweet Shoppe, which benefits the DuBois Center Camp Scholarship Program, but they need YOUR help! So apron up and bake on: cookies, cakes, snacks and more are welcome! For more information, check out this [flyer](#) or text/call Melissa at 314-440-6646 or Kristen at 618-567-6863.



### MOTHER - DAUGHTER RETREAT

**Registration Deadline: Sept 29**

**The Clock is Ticking!**

Time is running out, but you can still register for the annual DuBois Center Mother-Daughter Retreat, October 13-15. This event is open to all the great women and girls in your life. Escape for a weekend of fun, laughter, music, crafts, movement, joy-filled worship as well as favorite traditional camp activities. Check out this [flyer](#) and RSVP form or register [online](#). For more information contact the DuBois Center office at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.



### WELCOME SUNNY!

Sunny, a beautiful palomino gelding, joined the DuBois Center herd last Saturday. He is four years old, a registered quarter horse and a great size for both children and adults - 15.2 hands. DuBois Center now has two palominos - Sunny and Sundance. You can tell them apart by the star and strip on Sunny's face. When new horses arrive at our barn, they are slowly introduced to their barn-mates, one at a time, before meeting the entire herd. They are given time to get settled into their new home before orientation to our program and trails begins. Watch Weekly Connection and Facebook for herd updates.

**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!



**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.

**ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY CARE** 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](http://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



*St. Paul's Senior Community*  
A Place You Can Have Faith In

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.

To check on availability and make a reservation, contact Sandy Wagner at 618-560-9491 or [skwagner51@gmail.com](mailto:skwagner51@gmail.com).

**What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...**

**DEADLINE - OCTOBER 12**

**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 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.



**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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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.

**Region 3**

**Granite City St. John UCC will hold its Sausage Supper on Sun, Oct 15 from 11:30 am - 6 pm.** Adults \$10; Children 6 - 12 years \$5 in the dining room; All carryouts \$10. Quilt & afghan raffle, crafts, decorations, jewelry, baked goods and more.

**Region 9**

**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.

**Region 4**

**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

**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**

**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.

**Dupo Christ UCC will hold its Fall Festival on Sat, Oct 14 from 9 am - 3 pm.** Yard sales. Crafts. Sandwiches, soup, home-made pies. Country store. Prize board and basket raffle. Quilt raffle. For more info, call 618-286-4211.

## 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.

advance or at the door for \$10 donation. Carry-outs available.

## Region 8

**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.

**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.

**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](http://stpaulucc.org). Click [here](#) for a poster.

**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.