

Weekly Connection

For the Week of October 22, 2017 - October 28, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



When I am driving, I often listen to audio books or podcasts. A few days ago I was listening to a "throw back" NPR podcast entitled "Can You Tell Your Life Story In Exactly Six Words?" It featured a segment that NPR created after airing a phenomenon created by *Smith* magazine.

Smith magazine had invited writers "famous and obscure" to distill their own life stories into exactly six words. The invitation was in

the same spirit of how Ernest Hemingway when once asked to write a full story in six words, the novelist responded in this way: "For Sale: baby shoes, never worn." The response was so overwhelming that the magazine not only compiled the phrases, but they also started a website that continues today.

Then NPR, in collaboration with *Smith* magazine, created a whole segment they called, "Can You Tell Your Life Story in Exactly Six Words?" People were invited to call into their local NPR shows or to stop by story booths that were set up in cities throughout the United States in order to share their six word memoirs.

Here a few NPR's "Can You Tell Your Life Story in Exactly Six Words?" stories that I found particular compelling:

Painful nerd kid, happy nerd adult.

I picked passion, now I'm poor.

Alzheimer's: meeting new people every day.

Met wife at her bachelorette party.

The idea of the six words is to think clearly and succinctly how you might write about your life's story. As I considered this creative writing prompt, I thought about how interesting it would be to apply it to a local church. What six words we would use to tell our local church's story could be very revealing. What might these six words reveal about our mission? Our beliefs? Our commitments? Our joys? Our struggles? Our victories? Most importantly, what might those words reveal about our faith?

Consider using it as a challenge in your church. Can You Tell Your Church's Story in Exactly Six Words? What would they be?

Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

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

October 21

Worship at ISC Annual Meeting

October 22

Worship at Fieldon UCC

October 29

Worship with the Global Ministries Cuban delegation

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.

Your OCWM monies at work.



Calling All Senior High Youth

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.

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
Oct 22 - Oct 28, 2017
Churches & Pastors**

- Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate
- Jamestown St. Paul UCC,

Fundraiser for DuBois Center & ISC Disaster Relief Fund

1-Week's Vacation over July 4, 2018 in Williamsburg, Virginia

A "Silent Bid" Auction is going on now until January 4, 2018.

Anyone interested in a 1-week (2 bedrooms) time share at the Marriott Manor in Williamsburg, VA from June 29-July 6, 2018!!! This special fundraiser will benefit DuBois Center and the Illinois South Conference's Disaster Relief Fund by the generosity of the Zinns. The reservations are made for the highest bidder. A certificate will be your proof that you are the time-share winner.

For more information, contact Norma Borgmann at 618-292-4617 or nborgmann1658@charter.net. The deadline for silent bids is **January 4, 2018**. Use this bid [form](#). Cut off the bottom portion, place it in a sealed envelope, and mark the envelope with "Silent Bid". Mail or hand deliver to one of these locations:

DuBois Center, 2651Quarry Rd., DuBois, IL 62831

Illinois South Conference, 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249

Norma Borgmann, #6 Blackberry Run, Centralia, IL 62801

Payment is expected 10 days after notification of winning the auction.



Pastor Don (Lois) Propeck
Retired Pastor

- Rev. Paul and Marilyn Thompson, Jr., Red Bud, IL

People with Life Concerns

- 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.

- 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.

Following an unusually large gathering at the September Pastors/Spouses Fellowship, we look forward to the next meal at the Red Apple Restaurant in Maryville on Thursday, October 26. We'll begin as usual at 11:30 a.m. with our informal conversation and our individually ordered noon meals. Sharing in this relaxed setting helps this group of mostly retired pastors and spouses to keep connected with each other and keep up with certain events in our Illinois South Conference. Email (herbenne@wisperhome.com) or telephone (618-476-3925) reservations to Herb & Bennie Schafale no later than Monday evening, Oct. 23.



DuBois Center News

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



SERVICE SATURDAY-Nov 4

Stretch your muscles! Breathe fresh fall air! Hang out with friends and lend a helping hand! Youth and adult fellowship groups, families, individuals - everyone is invited to our annual fall work day. Projects vary, depending on the skills of those involved and the weather. Stacking wood, raking leaves and painting are on the list, as are a variety of skilled labor projects. The work may not be glamorous, but it really makes a BIG DIFFERENCE! Click [here](#) for a flyer to post and share and [here](#) for a typical Work Day schedule. Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend; we want to be sure to have a hot lunch ready for you! Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



WRANGLE & RIDE

Early Bird Deadline: THIS Saturday, Oct 21

Corral your friends, grab your boots, and join us for a day of horses on Saturday, November 11! Horse enthusiasts ages 12 and up are invited to spend the day grooming, tacking and riding - all while experiencing God and creation at the barn, in the arena, and on the trails. There will also be time for other fun horsey activities. This is a one-day event, with lunch included. Be sure to register early, so you don't miss out; space is limited to the first 12 registered. The cost is \$60 per person, with an early bird discount of \$5 if registered by **THIS SATURDAY**, October 21. The final registration deadline is October 28. [Online](#) registration is now open. For more information or to register by mail, check out this [flyer](#) or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.



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!



New Athens Home for the Aged will hold its Annual Fall Family Gathering on Sat, Oct 21 from 12 pm - 3 pm. Chili, Hot Dogs, Tea/Lemonade will be provided by the facility. They ask that each family bring a side dish/ appetizer. Music by a local Blue Grass band, *Shattered Strings*. Basket raffles. 50/50 drawing. Attendance prizes. For more info or to RSVP, call 618-475-2550.

MERCHANDISE PICKUP SERVICES CAN HELP

Merchandise Pickup Services is teaming up with **Hoyleton Youth and Family Services** in an effort to raise money for its residential and community based services. This program is simple, affordable and there is absolutely NO RISK to you or your business. To get started...

- 1) Simply agree to place a box on your property (boxes take up less than one parking space) and MPS will contact you to make all of the necessary arrangements.
- 2) Once placed, Hoyleton will begin advertising the location on Facebook and via email to our clients and donors. People will begin to place their clothing donations into the boxes.
- 3) MPS will collect the donations weekly, take them to their warehouse, weigh out the bags, and will then send a check directly to HYFS.

Yes, it's really that simple! You provide HYFS with one parking space and they can continue providing care to area children living with developmental and intellectual disabilities, suffering from abuse and neglect, living in foster care and those aging out of the system. Your single parking spot offers hope and light to a child who needs their help. Together we can make a difference in the lives of many!

If you have any questions, contact Kitty Wusstig at 618-688-4757. If you would like to learn more about Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, click [here](#) or Merchandise Pickup [Services](#).



Hoyleton Youth & Family Services will host a Halloween Bowling Bash on Sat, Oct 28 at Salem Bowl, 1620 E Main St, Salem, IL 62881. Bowling will happen in 2 squads. First squad registers at noon and plays at 12:30 pm. Second squad registers at 2:30 and plays at 3 pm. Team entry is \$100. Single entry is \$25. Includes 3 games, t-shirt, shoe rental and more. Register [online](#). Click [here](#) for

more information and a registration form.



November 3-4, 2017

Certificate Course: History and Polity of the UCC

presented by Dr. Jill Baker

This course will explore the history and polity (structure and governance) of the United Church of Christ, seeking to provide an understanding of the organization, ministries and mission

commitments of the UCC in the past, and looking to the future on how the denomination's theological trajectories may continue to develop.

Recommended Reading *"That they all may be One" That We May All (Finally!) be One*, by Mary Susan Gast, Pilgrim Press, 2016

Dr. Baker is an ONA Consultant for the Illinois South Conference UCC, and a trainer in the Building an Inclusive Church curriculum.



Elective Course: The Impact of Judaism on Christianity

Rabbi Howard Kaplansky

The origins of Christian faith are deeply grounded in Jewish tradition, texts, and practices. In this course Rabbi Howard Kaplansky addresses Jewish-Christian relationships, paying attention to such matters as interpretation of the Hebrew scriptures, the diversity of Judaism, Jewish rituals and customs, the State of Israel, the Middle East and Holocaust studies. (Sponsored by the Jewish Chautauqua Society).

Recommended Readings Bring a *Bible!*

Rabbi Howard Kaplansky became Rabbi Emeritus of United Hebrew on July 1, 2011, after serving the congregation for over 30 years, including Senior Rabbi from 1990-2011. He received his B.A. degree from Ohio State University, and was ordained Rabbi at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion where he received his M.A.H.L. and D.D. degrees.

Visit [here](#) for more information and to register. Or contact Jill Schantz at jschantz@eden.edu or by calling 314-918-2554. Click [here](#) for a flyer.





St. John's will offer Savvy Caregiver Training sessions several times through 2018 using a curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota. This training provides tools to family members who are caring for an individual with dementia/memory loss who is living at home, either alone or with family. Each session will be comprised of six two-hour sessions. The first series will begin Wednesday, October 25 at 10 am at St. John Evangelical UCC, 307 West Clay Street, Collinsville. Each series is limited to a maximum of 12 families. There is no cost to those attending. For more information or to register, call 618-344-5008. Click [here](#) for a poster.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Region 3

Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC 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

Brighton St. John UCC will hold its Totenfest Sunday service on All Saints Sunday, Nov 5 at 10:15 am. Members of the community are invited to attend and bring a picture of their loved one to share. Special recognition will be given to people who have died in the past year, and all who have died will be remembered.

All You Can Eat Fried Chicken Dinner, Thurs, Oct 19, 4-7 pm, at Wood River St. John UCC (corner of 6th & Penning). Adults \$10; kids 6-12 yrs \$5; and kids 5 yrs and under are FREE. All carry-outs \$10. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, biscuits, green beans, slaw, drinks and homemade desserts. Visa-Mastercard accepted. Handicap accessible.

Region 4

Brighton St. John UCC will present their annual Trunk or Treat festival on Fri, Oct 27 from 5-8 pm in the church parking lot. Sweet treats, roasted hot dogs and festive drinks. We are open till our treats are all gone.

Brighton St. John's UCC offers The Patchwork Youth Gathering on Sun, Oct 22 from 5-8 pm.

This is an open and affirming place for all youth ages 13-20 to drop in and hang out, play games and make friends in a safe, caring environment.

Region 5

Marine UCC will hold its Pork Sausage Dinner on Sun, Nov 5 from 11 am - 5:30 pm. Menu includes homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, sauerkraut, green beans, corn, and homemade pie. Adults \$10; Children 4-10 years \$4; Children 3 and under Free. All carry-outs \$10. Farmers' Market. Raffle of quilts, side of beef, whole hog, gift cards, and more.

Region 6

Pana United in Faith will celebrate its 10th Anniversary on Sunday, October 29. After its regular worship service at 10:15 pm, there will be a pot-luck meal. At 1 pm, they will have their anniversary program followed by a reception. All church congregations in Illinois South Conference are invited to join in the celebration.

Region 8

The 7th Annual New Baden Festival of Trees will be from Nov 16 - 19 at the Community Life Center at St. George Church, 317 E Maple St, New Baden. More information from Leanne at nbfestivaloftrees@gmail.com or call 618-224-7825.

Region 9

O'Fallon UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Thurs, Oct 19 from 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Menu includes pork sausage, mashed potatoes, gravy, sauerkraut, country green beans, applesauce, beverage and a delicious dessert. Adults \$10; Children 4-12 \$6; Children 3 and under Free. Butcher Shop.

Belleville Trinity UCC will hold a Stewardship Rummage Sale on its parking lot on Sat, Oct 28 from 8 am - 1 pm. Items can be brought to the church and placed in the "Library." No clothes at this time. If you do not have items to give, please come to find some treasures for your home.

The St. Paul UCC in Waterloo introduces its St. Paul Fine Arts Concert. The Sun Dec 17 - 2 pm - St. Paul Orchestra Christmas Concert prepares you for the holidays.