

Weekly Connection

For the Week of November 26, 2017 - December 2, 2017
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Imagine It!! A Week's Stay in Williamsburg, Virginia Make a bid! Highest Bidder wins!!!

Date of timeshare: June 29, 2018 - July 6, 2018
Location: Marriott Manor in Williamsburg, Virginia

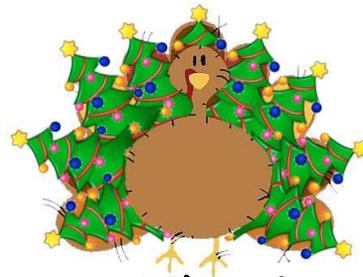
Accommodations: 1-week (2 bedrooms) timeshare
Silent Bid deadline is January 4, 2018.

This special fundraiser will benefit DuBois Center and the Illinois South Conference's Disaster Relief Fund by the generosity of the Zinns. A certificate will be your proof that you are the timeshare winner.

For more information, contact Norma Borgmann at 618-292-4617 or nborgmann1658@charter.net. 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.
The deadline for silent bids is January 4, 2018.

As my husband and the girls are getting ready to head to my parents' house this week and celebrate Thanksmas with the Johnson side of our family, I have been thinking about our traditions. Thanksmas is a holiday our family created several years ago out of the reality that, as a two pastor household, our schedule was chocked full of church related activities and responsibilities. The reality was that



Happy Thanksmas

we were always rushing to "fit in" family time and found ourselves not being fully present to enjoy being with family. Thus our extended family created Thanksmas, a combined Thanksgiving and Christmas celebration in one weekend.

For our Thanksgiving Day portion of the celebration there are several traditions that are probably pretty much the same as those you and your families have.

- 1) Regardless of those creative efforts to change up the menu...we still have to have turkey-no Cornish hens, no tuducken and no tofu turkey (even though many in the family are vegetarians).
- 2) At some point in the course of the meal, we go around the table and share for what we are thankful.
- 3) Calories and diets are null and void on Thanksgiving day.
- 4) Before the meal someone in the family offers a devotion, brief words and a prayer of blessing.
- 5) At some point the true football fans sneak into the other room to catch the game.

For those of us who share in these traditions, the other day I heard on the radio a couple of great tips of how to shake up your Thanksgiving celebrations this year:

- 1) During the middle of the meal, turn to the person who prepared the turkey and say, "See mom, I told you they wouldn't notice that the turkey was four months past its expiration date. You were worried for nothing."
- 2) When everyone goes around to say what they are thankful for, simply say, "I'm thankful I didn't get caught" and refuse to say anymore.

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 Nov 26 - Dec 2 Churches & Pastors

- Mascoutah St. John UCC,
Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz
- Metropolis Zion UCC, Pastor
David (Treila) Krueger

3) Load up your plate, then take it into the kitchen, toss it all in the blender, and take your "shake" back to the table. Announce it is the new "Thanksgiving Weight Loss Shake."

4) Prepare an hour-long speech to give when asked about your thankfulness. If necessary, insist that no one can leave the table or eat until you have finished your speech.

5) Bring along old recorded football games and put them on while no one is watching. Make sure it is set to the last two minutes of the game when the true football fans come into the room...after you noticing them intently watching...turn it off and put on another show.

Regardless of your traditions with family or friends, the purpose and goal of thanksgiving is the same for all of us. It is an opportunity for us to pause amidst the busyness of life and purposefully raise our glasses, our eyes, and our consciousness to heaven-in order to give God thanks.

This year, I especially give God thanks for the incredible honor of being in ministry with all of you in the Illinois South Conference. I have borne witness to the unshakable faith, the unswerving dedication, the resilience, the creativity, the tremendous God given gifts and talents, the beauty, the joy, the determination, the extravagant hospitality, the steadfast commitment to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, and above all the amazing people both individually and collectively in our churches. You are God's masterpieces of tangible love, grace and peace in the world. Thank you for being such a blessing to me and to all those you seek to serve.

May you all have a rich and blessed Thanksgiving season.
Blessings, Shana

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Fred and Shirley Wehrenberg, Columbia, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Priscilla Self as she prepares for surgery on Dec 1. Priscilla worked at DuBois Center for over 30 years (and still does part time). She is a member of the Okawville St. Peter's UCC and secretary for Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC. Cards may be sent to her at 12922 County Hwy 27, Nashville, IL 62263.

- Pray for Cheryl (Matt) Gusewelle as she recovers from surgery. Cheryl is the daughter-in-law of Joyce & Richard Gusewelle. They are members of St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville and Joyce is a member of the ISC Conference Gatherings Team.

- 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 retired pastor and they are members of Pana United in Faith Church. Cards may be sent to 9008 E South Cir Dr, Effingham IL 62401.

The Highland Office will be closed on Nov 22 - 24, 2017 to allow employees to join their families in the celebration of Thanksgiving.



Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving!
Whether great or small,
Experience and conflict,
Let's thank one and all.

The cry of a babe,
A father's caress,
Guidelines and rules,
Expecting no less.

A kiss from a dog,
Teaching him tricks.
Two brothers fighting,
Each get in their licks.

Hand-stitched quilts,
Each made with care.
Pumping the tires
With just the right air.

Cardinals and bluejays
Eating fresh seeds
While squirrels and sparrows
Take what they need.

Children excited by
Learning to read.
Seeing the dewdrops
In glistening beads.

Death and slow changes
Bring on the new.
Exchanging some old
thoughts
For new points of view.

We thank you for all,
From which we can gain.
All days can't be sunny,
Sometimes we need rain.

-Lynnette Schuepbach



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

St. Paul UCC in Nashville held their Annual Food Fight on Nov 8. They call it a Food Fight because they award a traveling trophy to the church that collects the most food per youth in attendance. This year's trophy winner was Hoyleton Trinity Lutheran Church. There were 60 youth and adults who gathered from 4 churches, Grace United Methodist Church, St. Ann Catholic Church, Hoyleton Trinity Lutheran and the St. Paul United Church of Christ. Thanks to the communities' generosity,

this group collected over 3,300 items which were used to stock the shelves at the Washington County Food Pantry in Irvington. In addition, they were able to complete 70+ Thanksgiving bags, which contained all the items needed to fix a Thanksgiving meal, including a turkey, thanks to the fundraising efforts of St. Paul UCC in Nashville.



Get Your Doves Here

Edna Dell Weinel from Columbia St. Paul UCC decided she would rather make a donation toward ISC's Friends of the Conference fund rather than learn to make the dove. We agreed to have it made for her. If anyone else would like to purchase a dove, email lschuepbach@iscucc.org and we will get one made for you. We will put your wishes and name on the dove. Make checks payable to Illinois South Conference. In the memo, put "Friends - Dove" and mail to 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249. The package will be shipped to Texas the first week of December.



Beat that Deadline!! - Dec 8

The Space Request is due December 8. DuBois can accommodate 100 people, so the space request allows us the opportunity to make sure we can fill the space without overfilling it! So, please complete the [form](#) and return it with your deposit by Dec 8.

As your youth group starts planning for Winter Weekend, please keep in mind that we are asking the youth to help with two offerings.

1. Sunday morning, we will collect a cash (or check) offering to support Uni-Pres Kindercottage. We suggest the youth of your church connect with the entire congregation as a mission.

2. We also ask the youth to collect and bring facial tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, wet wipes, and or Clorox wipes for Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Let's see how large of a stack we can create.



Upcoming Forum...

Open & Affirming: Living Openly, A Public and Visible Church will be held on Saturday March 3 from 9 am - 3:45 pm at Parkway UCC, 2841 North Ballas Road, St. Louis, Missouri

Registration begins at 8:30 am. Coffee, pastries and fruit will be available. Displays and bookstore will be open.

If you are an Open and Affirming congregation, talking about Open and Affirming, thinking about starting the conversation, or wanting to explore how to be effective allies, there will be something for you and your church. Be in conversation with others, learn what it means to be Open and Affirming and how to fully express extravagant welcome to all God's children.

Edith Guffey, Kansas/Oklahoma Conference Minister will be our keynote speaker/preacher for the day.

For additional information please contact: Lorin Cope, Convener, Gateway ONA at lcpe@eden.edu. Registration information will be available in January.

CONTINUED WAYS TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY THE HURRICANES

PRAY for those affected by disasters and those who respond.

VOLUNTEER - Volunteers around the country are needed in the months and years ahead. Individuals to be trained and serve for periods of 6-12 months will be needed for leadership. Groups and individuals will be needed to rebuild homes and walk with people as they recover their lives and dreams.

Sign up [here](#) to be the first to receive information on registration for long-term recovery. Past volunteers in long-term disaster recovery have removed carpet and drywall from flooded homes, installed framing, listened to local stories of the disaster, and wrote guest editorials in their local news outlets.

[Register](#) today to serve in Florida and Louisiana in response to Hurricane Matthew which hit in 2016. Skilled roofers are needed beginning on October 15 in Volusia County, FL in response to both Hurricane Matthew and now Hurricane Irma damage.

GIVE generously to support hurricane relief and recovery efforts by clicking on the link to make a secure online donation. Gifts may also be made to your UCC congregation marked for "Hurricane Relief" with the request they be sent through the Illinois South Conference office on to the Disaster Ministries UCC national office at 700 Prospect Avenue, Financial Services, 6th Floor, Cleveland, OH 44115. Mark for "Hurricane Relief", or designate for "Harvey", "Irma" or "Maria".

You will be meeting the needs of affected individuals and families by filling gaps in services through the following provisions:

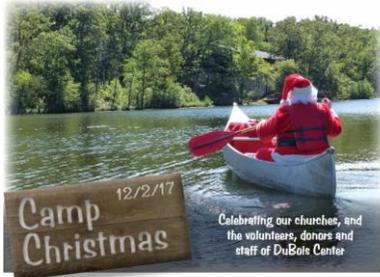
- Spiritual care
- Community organizing
- Repair and reconstruction of homes
- Tools
- Building materials
- Volunteer coordination

YEAR ROUND - prepare Church World Service Disaster Kits. Follow the link below for Kit information.

Click [here](#) for your UCC Disaster Ministries Kits Matching Grant Application

For stories of your donations in action, follow us on [Facebook](#)!

UCC Disaster [Ministries](#) / Disaster [Updates](#)



**"THANK YOU"
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday, Dec. 2 - RSVP Today**

This annual event is our opportunity to say **THANK YOU!** Thank you for your prayers and support; your gifts of time, talent and treasure; and your partnership in our shared mission and ministry at DuBois Center. Together we have touched countless lives over the past five decades with gifts of sacred space and God's abundant love. Volunteers, staff, supporters and friends are invited to enjoy a tasty dinner, unique entertainment and, of course, THE Christmas game. Social hour begins at 5 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Churches are encouraged to send representatives. Please RSVP to DuBois Center at 618-787-2202

or dcinfo@duboiscenter.org by **Fri, Nov 24**. Click [here](#) for your invitation.



RECYCLE your GOLF CART

Plan to replace your golf cart next spring? Current one just taking up space? We may be able to help! DuBois Center is in need of a 4-seat golf cart - gas or electric. Currently, our nurses use a Gator with two seats to respond to situations and deliver medication. If a camper needs to be transported back to the health center for treatment, there is no room for a third person. Renting a golf cart for the summer is very expensive, so we are exploring other options. You can help with this critical need; donations may be tax-deductible. For more information contact Shirley at 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org.

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

You, too, can be a LIFEGUARD!

Moderate to strong swimmer? Each summer we hire 7-8 young adults with Lifeguard certification to serve on our summer staff. If you are interested, NOW is the time to start swimming. Stay in shape this winter while preparing for a great summer job. Check out courses at your local college or university, rec center, YMCA or JCC.

Hint: If your school offers a course - take it. Those classes are generally less expensive than community classes. Lifeguard certification classes also include First Aid and CPR certification, both of which are prerequisites for summer staff. Questions about lifeguard certification? Contact us at 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org. Happy swimming!



SUMMER JOBS - Make a Difference this Summer!

Summer is just around the corner and staff recruitment kicks off this month. Energetic, child-focused, fun-loving - sound like you or someone you know? Check out the Summer of Service [flyer](#) and consider whether an amazing summer at DuBois Center might be just the opportunity you have been looking for. Gain practical experience and build your resume. Positions include cabin counselors/activity leaders, barn

assistant/counselors and coordinators. FAITH. FUN. HARD WORK. GREAT FRIENDS. LONG HOURS. AMAZING MEMORIES. Questions? Contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org.

Here's a Thought:

Know someone who might make a great camp leader? Please forward this article to them or use this [form](#) to recommend them.



Here's a Thought!

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!



Hoyleton Youth and Family Services Celebrates National Adoption Day



On Saturday, November 18, 2017, Hoyleton Youth and Family Services celebrated the joys of adoption and encouraged more people to give children permanent families through adoption. Through its broad spectrum of residential and community-based programming, Hoyleton Youth and Family Services enriches the lives of over 2,300 individuals each year. A reception followed at The Foundry Public House, 126 N Main St Edwardsville, IL.

This celebration was part of a nationwide effort to call special attention to the 100,000 foster children waiting in the United States for adoption, and celebrated all loving families that adopt.

"Uniting a child with a family who loves them is one of the best opportunities I have as a Judge to help our community" Judge Sarah Smith says about the program. Judge Smith is the chair of this year's National Adoption Day ceremony. "National Adoption Day is a day to celebrate with the children who have found their forever home, and to raise awareness for children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. This is our second year celebrating his special occasion and we are excited to see that this event has grown even bigger this year."

Since 1987, the number of children in foster care nationally has doubled, and the average time a child remains in foster care has lengthened to nearly three years. Each year, approximately 28,000 children in foster care will age out of the system without ever being with a permanent family. More than 17,000 children are in foster care in Illinois; 3,347 of these children are waiting for adoptive families.

"For some of these children, they are now part of a new family. Many have had a difficult journey getting to this point, but the reward and opportunity are great," said Sharon McDevitt, Director of Child Welfare for Hoyleton. "This is a new birthday for these children."

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact Hoyleton for more information at 618-688-4727.



The Hitz Home Auxiliary presents Christmas Tasting Bee on Fri, Dec 1 at 1 pm in the Hitz Activity and Dining Room. It's an afternoon of fellowship at their winter wonderland celebration. Bring your favorite Christmas appetizer, dish or dessert to share a delicious meal, Christmas goodies, and entertainment by the Joy Singers. There will be a bake & craft sale by the Hitz Home residents. Donation \$6.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

The Annual ISC Pride Christmas Party will be Saturday Dec 2 from 2 - 4 pm at St. John United Church of Christ, 10207 Lincoln Trail in Fairview Heights. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and come prepared for a little trivia and a lot of fun. Our party is the same day as the Christmas party at DuBois Center, but DuBois Center's party doesn't start till 5 pm. We'll wrap up in time for you to attend both, if that's in your plans for the day.

The Illinois South Conference Pastors/Spouses Fellowship group will NOT meet on the 4 or 5 Thursday of Nov because of Thanksgiving. Instead, the group will gather for a pre-Christmas meal and sharing on Thurs, Dec 7 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville at 11:30 am. The Shrine needs an accurate count in advance because their restaurant is busy this time of year. Please get reservations for this meal to Herb & Bennie Schafale at 618-476-3925 or herbenne@wisperhome.com no later than Monday evening, Dec 4. We look forward to a fun and festive pre-Christmas gathering!

Job Opportunity: St. John UCC in Granite City is searching for a part-time cemetery manager. Time requirement is a minimum of 20 hours per week with an occasional Saturday. Duties include supervise grounds keeper; maintain payroll and tax records; grave sales and interment procedures; work with excavation and ground care companies and communicate with funeral director on time and action; work with funeral home prior to interment to acquire needed documents; keep all grave location ledgers and files accurate on a weekly basis; work with the grounds keeper to locate all of the paper files, computer files and ledger tools to find all of the grave sites; write and issue checks and mail all payroll/expense bills with approval of the Cemetery Committee; monitor usage of sick days, vacation usage and personnel holidays for all cemetery employees; forward payroll to accountant via fax or e-mail every two week pay period for processing; put together a monthly list of current bills, burials, the accountants monthly statement and Edward Jones statements for the Cemetery Committee; attend the Cemetery Committee Meeting. Salary will be \$14/hour. To apply, send your resume with cover letter to the following address: St. John United Church of Christ, 2901 Nameoki Road, Granite City, Illinois 62040. ATTN: Personnel Committee or e-mail to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com. No phone calls please.

Region 2

Two Trips/Tours for Confirmation Classes Scheduled. This year's area Confirmation Class trips for youth and adults are organized by Region 2 Pastors. The two remaining trips are:

- Sat, Dec 2 at 11:30 am - Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 1755 Des Peres Road, Town & Country, MO
 - Sat, Jan 13 at 10 am - St Louis Basilica Cathedral, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO
- Contact Rev. Ivan Horn at ivhorn@htc.net if interested.

Region 2

St. Paul UCC, Columbia, will hold their 7th Annual Plowsharing Fair Trade Crafts Sale Sat and Sun, Dec 16 and 17, 8 am - 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be many one-of-a-kind pieces, such as jewelry, clothing, art, home decorations, baskets, musical instruments, games for kids, etc. Finely crafted, handmade products provide work and vital income to families in need of adequate food, housing, education and medical care.

Region 5

Staunton St. Paul Exhale (youth group) will hold its Vendor Fair and Craft Show on Sat, Dec 2 from 9 am - 3 pm. Bake Sale. Christmas gifts. Proceeds help fundraiser for summer mission trips for the youth group. Contact Becca at 618-520-0185.

Region 6

A CHRISTKINDLMARKT will be held at St. Peter UCC in Centralia on Sat, Dec 9, between 10 am and 2 pm. Vendors wares, crafts made by members, lots of cookies and other baked goods plus St. Peter special recipe sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, and pie and cake by the slice will be available for sale. Bulk sausage can also be purchased.