

Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 4, 2018 - February 10, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



For me, the story of Jesus casting the unclean spirit out a man in the synagogue is a difficult passage. If I were still in local church ministries and planning my preaching schedule, I might have thought to myself in looking at the upcoming lectionary text, *"Huh, how am I going to have a fresh approach to this text?"* Then I might have the passing thought of, *"Hmm, I wonder if I could have a guest preacher on that day?"*

Well, guess what? This past Sunday, when Mark 1:21-28 came up in the lectionary cycle, I was the guest preacher.

Ironically, in the story Jesus is the guest preacher and teacher at the synagogue that day. I thought about what it would have been like for Jesus to be interrupted in mid thought, in midsentence, while he was preaching. As verses 23 and 24 recount, *"Then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.'"*

As I tried to imagine this interruption, I was struck by something I never noticed before in this passage. Why does the man say, "What have you to do with **'us,'** Jesus? Have you come to destroy **'us'?**" Who is the **'us'** the man is referring to?

Then I thought, what if the man with a broken mind and spirit, overcome with this disease that had robbed him of who he used to be, might have been saying **'us'** in regards to all of the parts of himself.

As the man stands in the synagogue, I would imagine most people only saw what he appeared to be at that moment; only few would know what he might have been in another moment. Only One would have known who he has been since the beginning of his existence.

The One who knew him in his mother's womb.

The One who knew him as a sleeping baby boy who his mother's heart knew at first glance.

The toddler full of curiosity.

The little boy full of joy and wonder.

The awkward teenager.

The bold and confident young man.

As well as the broken man that stood before Jesus on that day.

Perhaps the **'us,'** to which he was referring, was the person at that moment, the person he had been, and the person he could be.

And so, this man with an unclean spirit...a spirit that is broken, disconnected, and avoided by others...is truly SEEN by Jesus.

This man with an unclean spirit-comes before Jesus and cries out...

"Will you destroy **'us'** like others have done, dismissing all the parts of me, denying my worth, denying my very being?" In a sense he cries out, "Will you, too, name me as unclean, unapproachable, untouchable and unworthy? Jesus, what will you have to do with **'us'?**"

In verses 25 through 26, we read of Jesus' response. *"Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him."*

Jesus silences the parts of the man that have been holding him back, that have separated himself from others, that have stood in the way of others seeing who he really is and of him being able to embrace the man he had created and the man he could be.

Important Links

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duboiscenter.org

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[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

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[St. John's Community Care](#)

[St. Paul's Home](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

[ISC Directory](#)

Pray for...

**Prayer list for
Feb 4 - Feb 10, 2018
Churches & Pastors**

- Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Jean Carmean, Interim Pastor
- Troy Friedens UCC, Rev. Douglas (Rev. Kim) Seagle

The man with the unclean spirit interrupts and he shakes before Jesus because his uncleanness, his tarnished, broken self recognizes the power of Christ.

To me what is beautiful is that the man shows up with his full self- all of himself and he is healed.

The same is true for us. Yet, it takes courage.

Author and speaker, Brené Brown, says *"the scariest thing is to show up completely before one another."*

Yet, to show up completely, to show up with all parts of us, is the only way to be healed.

The unclean spirit cries out, "What do you want from 'us,' Jesus of Nazareth?"

Jesus answers the 'us' boldly, "Be silent, I'll take care of this for you."

He looks at all that is unclean, all that is chaotic, all of our demons we have guarded so fiercely in our lives, and Jesus says,

"Come out of there, she doesn't need you anymore."

"Come out of there, he doesn't need you anymore."

Jesus is saying to us now... I am here.

I am the one who can love you, as you need to be loved.

I am the one you can trust.

I am the one you can depend on.

I am the one who will never leave you.

I am the one who will heal you and make you whole by my love and grace.

Brothers and sister, **THIS is the good news.**

Thanks be to God!

Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 11

Worship at Zion UCC, Hoyelton

February 18

Preaching at St. Peter UCC, Red Bud

As we move into 2018, I am planning my worship schedule to join as many of the ISC churches as possible. I would love an invitation to your church! Please reach out to me at the office at (618) 654-2125 or on my cell phone at (618) 882-8247 with some possible dates. You can also send me an email at sjohnson@iscucc.org. **This is your OCWM monies at work.**

The Courage to Show Up: A Conversation with Brené Brown and DeRay McKesson

Following a viral twitter [exchange](#) the two had last year, The Riverside Church is bringing together best-selling author and speaker Brené Brown and Black Lives Matter activist DeRay McKesson to have a conversation about vulnerability, shame, courage, race, and privilege and the unlikely intersections of their work. The conversation will be shown in livestream on Thursday, Feb 1 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. CST. The following churches in ISC will be host sites for this event:

Church of the Good Shepherd UCC, Carbondale: Doors open at 5:45 pm. Gather in Sanctuary. Questions call Pastor Kim Magwire: 618-889-7460.

St John Evangelical UCC, Collinsville: Doors open at 5:30 pm. We will be in the theatre, so please park in the back parking lot off of Seminary St. Come in the Education building and the theatre is at the bottom of the stairs. Questions or directions, contact Pastor Katie Jo at 830-305-3684.

Evangelical UCC, Highland: Doors open at 5:45 pm. Go straight ahead into the Worship Center. Questions: 618-654-7459.

At a future date, St. Paul UCC, Belleville will feature the video of the conversation. Information will be sent as it is planned.

The format will be ½ conversation, ½ Q&A from the audience and social media. There will be time following the event for discussion and reflection. Please join one of our ISC churches for this event!

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Fred and Shirley Wehrenberg

People with Life Concerns

- 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.

- Pray for Pastor Cherie (Michael) Stolzie as she deals with some health issues.

Cherie is the pastor at Stone Church St. Peter's UCC and Okawville St. Paul UCC. Cards may be sent to her at 12023 Lake Meade Dr, St. Louis, MO 63146.

- Please pray for the family of Ann Workman as they mourn her death. Ann was the mother of Vivian (Rev. Ivan) Horn and passed away at her home at age 97. Rev. Horn is the pastor at Friedens UCC in Hecker. Cards may be sent to them at 727 Gall Rd, Waterloo, IL 62298.



UCC Disaster Ministries adds Harvey work site in SE Texas, beginning in February, 2018

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey drenched the Texas Gulf Coast, leaving 900,000 people in need. Among those hit hardest - renters in once prosperous but now economically precarious Port Arthur. The Southeast Texas Community Development Corporation (SETCDC) has provided low-income housing for more than 30 years. Harvey flooded 17 of SETCDC's 19 units with two feet of water, creating tremendous difficulties related to property repair. As a result, the residents - who were already struggling to secure basic needs and services - were displaced, and much of their personal property was destroyed.



By providing SETCDC with work teams and other resources necessary for an adequate repair/rebuild, UCC Disaster Ministries hopes to empower the corporation and tenants and build long-term relationships of care and support for the community.

Volunteers will be helping to repair homes for low-income renters who were displaced by the floods. Work may include but will not be limited to light carpentry, insulation, flooring, trim and painting. Worksite supervisors are provided.

Who: Adult to Youth (Minimum Age: 16) 1 adult to every 4 youth

Time: Arrive Sunday afternoon and depart Saturday morning. Work: Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Group size: 12 maximum

Accommodations: Volunteers will stay in a large, newly renovated house located in Beaumont, Texas. Beds and/or cots and kitchen access provided. Groups bring own bedding and prepare own meals. Shared shower and bathroom facilities.

Tools: Tool trailers will be on site for use by volunteer groups. Volunteers are welcome to bring personal tools if they so choose.

Meals: The volunteer house has a full kitchen that can be used by groups. Additionally, there is a large variety of restaurants within a short drive.

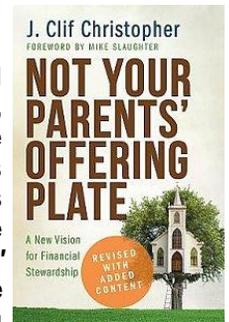
Cost: Lodging for volunteers is FREE! And, receive a free UCC Disaster Ministries t-shirt.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply. **Donations to One Great Hour of Sharing help to make this possible.**

A Book Review: *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate* written by J. Clif Christopher

Review by Judy Brickey, Treasurer of Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC Council

Our church has struggled over the past years with how to make improvements in our annual stewardship campaigns and in overall long-term giving. As giving to religion in America declines, we are faced with how we are to make improvements in our congregation's giving to continue the mission of our church. Today people give their money to where they see the most results. As church members of old, we gave to the church because it was the 'right thing to do.' Members today want to understand why they should support the church. The Deacons and many of the Council members have read and started to implement parts of the book; *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate* by J. Clif Christopher. This book explains that people don't give to church because we don't offer them a compelling vision of the good their giving will achieve. Hearing a young attorney speak of the faith-based reasons for which he had just made a substantial monetary gift to a community youth center, author J. Clif Christopher asked the speaker if he would consider making a similar contribution to the congregation of which he was an active member. "Lord, no they would not know what to do with it" was the answer. That, in a nutshell, describes the problem churches are facing in their stewardship efforts, says Christopher. Unlike leading nonprofit agencies and institutions, we too often fail to convince potential givers that their gifts will have impact and significance. In this book, Christopher lays out the main reasons for this failure to capture the imagination of potential givers, including our frequent failure simply to ask. Written with the needs of pastors and stewardship teams in mind, *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate* provides immediate, practical guidance to all who seek to help God's people be better stewards of their resources.



Three Great Opportunities

1 Day of Discipleship

Click [here](#). You can also download the paperwork [here](#).

We will be combining 2 events on **March 3, 2018: The Installation of Rev. Shana Johnson as Conference Minister and Day of Discipleship**. Between the two events, ISC Pride will host a reception for all those attending.

The day begins with registration at 9:00 am and program at 9:30 am to be held at the Highland Evangelical UCC for Day of Discipleship, featuring the keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Director of the United Church of Christ CARD (Center for Analytics, Research and Data) ministries.

2 From 2 pm - 3 pm, the ISC Pride will host a reception.

#3 The Installation service for Rev. Shana Johnson begins at 3 pm.

Plan now to celebrate the gift ISC has been given by calling Rev. Shana Johnson.





DREAMING of SPRING

As we brave the cold, dark days of winter - even with the beauty of each unique snowflake and crisp starry night - our dreams are filled with visions of a more vibrant and colorful spring. Bloodwort and Indian Pink are just two of the beautiful wildflowers that thrive at DuBois Center throughout the spring and summer. Now is a great time to plan a trip to "your big backyard" for a retreat, Service Saturday or a group horseback ride and picnic. Contact us at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.



FATHER-SON RETREAT April 13-15

Calling dads, lads, granddads, uncles and nephews! Spend quality time together at the annual DuBois Center Father-Son Retreat. Fish, hike, canoe and just hang

out together. Make cool crafts, share in vespers and work on your archery skills. Horseback riding is available for an additional fee. Lodging is in heated cottages and Hickory Lodge. Families participate together; activities are geared for boys age 5 and older. Rev. RJ Morgan will be returning as our chaplain for the weekend. Click [here](#) for a flyer and reservation form. **Online registration begins February 15.** Questions? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.

Church Alert:

Utilize this retreat as an extension of your family or men's ministry. Recruit a group from your congregation to attend. Engaging faith focus times will be woven throughout the weekend.



SUMMER JOBS – APPLY NOW!

Is this the year for more than just another summer job? DuBois Center is searching for fun-loving and child-focused individuals with a heart for ministry to serve on our summer staff. Amazing memories + resume building skills = a summer to remember. Check out the Summer of Service [flyer](#) and consider whether serving outdoors with a dynamic team might be just the opportunity for you. Open positions include cabin counselors, barn staff and coordinators. Lifeguard certification is a plus. Questions? Contact Shirley at shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Application packets are available [online](#).



GREEN BEANS and DICE Saturday Evening, Feb 24



Join Region 2 for a night of winter blues-busting fun at St. Paul UCC in Columbia. Play BUNCO, and support DuBois Center and a local food pantry! Bunco is an engaging dice game that is easy to learn; children as young as 10

or 11 can be successful and have fun. Doors open at 6:30 pm; play begins at 7 pm. Cost to play is \$10 per person. This year **Bunco Night** is being paired with an effort to "Fill a Food Pantry." By February, the major "food" holidays will be distant memories and pantry shelves will need restocking. Lend a hand and have a lot of fun - all at the same time! Help spread the word; invite everyone you know! Check out this [flyer](#) for details.



The Challenge:

1. Bring a can or box of nutritious food to donate to a local food pantry. For each item you donate, you will receive one ticket for a special drawing - the more items donated, the more chances to win. The prize will be a fun basket of items appropriate for a variety of ages.
2. Recruit Bunco players from your local church or community group. The church/group with the most individuals who pay and play Bunco at this event will have the honor of selecting the food pantry to receive the food collected that evening.



WRANGLE & RIDE - Saturday, April 21

Join our equestrian team on Saturday, April 21 from 9am - 5pm for a full day of fun with the DuBois Center herd! Designed for both beginner and experienced riders, this is a horse-intensive day of grooming, tacking, riding, instruction and other horse-related activities. Beginners will be introduced to basic skills, while experienced riders work on more advanced options. The cost for this event is \$60 with lunch included. Register by March 31 and save \$5. Final deadline is April 7 - if space is still available. Click [here](#) for a flyer and reservation form. **Online registration begins February 15.** Questions? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.



SERVICE SATURDAYS - March 24 & April 21

Stretch your muscles, get a little dirty and make a difference! Help spruce up the grounds for our busy spring and summer seasons. We can't do it without YOU! Projects vary, depending on the weather and the skills of the workers - carpentry, cleaning, painting, raking and more. We may even remove or install a dock. Serve together with friends and family and gain a sense of satisfaction. Lunch is provided. Check out this [flyer](#) for more



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

Advocacy and Ministry: A Voice of Faith in an Evolving Society

St. Louis / March 1-3, 2018
#OneVoiceCHHSM



The Council for Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ will hold its Annual Meeting on March 1-3, 2018 at the Marriott St. Louis Grand, 800 Washington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63101 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The theme is *Advocacy and Ministry: A Voice of Faith in an Evolving Society.*

"May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant that you live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with ONE VOICE bring glory to God." Romans 15:5-6

Highlights include:

- Opening Worship at Deaconess - Our opening worship service will also include the consecration of the Deaconess Foundation's new Center for Child Well-Being. Buses will depart from the hotel at 2pm on Thursday March 1 for that special event. Worship is free and open to the public.
- St. Louis Celebration - Friday evening, March 2nd, we will celebrate our host city, St. Louis, and all its member organizations! This fun night will include a St. Louis themed buffet dinner and music from the Baglunch Blues Band. Admission to this dinner is included in the full registration cost and is only \$25 for guests.
- German Diakonie Visitors - We will be joined by guests from our German partner, Diakonie Rhineland, Westphalia, Lippe.
- Diakonal Minister Consecration - As always, a highlight of our Annual Gathering will be to consecrate those who are completing this year of the Nollau Leadership Institute. Worship is free and open to the public.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).



2nd Annual Night at the Improv - Sat, April 14

Uni-Pres Kindercottage presents **Night at the Improv on Sat, April 14 at St. Paul UCC, 115 W "B" St, Belleville.** A night of Laughter, Frivolity & Jocularly featuring *Ed Reggi* and *The Paper Slips Theater*. Doors open for silent auction at 5 pm. Dinner and show at 6 pm. Here are two ways to promote the event at your churches. Click [here](#) for a bulletin insert. Click [here](#) for a pdf to be

placed on your PowerPoint slides during your services.



Walker Leadership Institute

Leadership for the Common Good



Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018

Time: 9:00 am - noon (lunch following)

Location: Eden Theological Seminary, Press Hall, Room 101, 475 East Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, MO

Cost: \$40 per person, includes lunch following the program

Click Here to Register Now

Questions? 314.918.2546 or leadership@eden.edu

You Will Learn:

- How a clearly articulated identity is important to your

congregation and to draw newcomers.

- Understand what newcomers do and think before they show up on Sunday.
- How important it is for everyone in your congregation to tell the same story in their own unique way.

You Will Create:

- A unique identity.
- An "elevator speech" for all occasions which will motivate current and new membership.
- A refined brand that will set you apart from other congregations.

You Will Take Home:

- An identity that is simple and clear to communicate to everyone you encounter.
- Your unique "story" based on this identity and your context for mission and ministry.
- The ability to train others in your congregation to effectively tell your story.



Mental Health First Aid Workshops will be presented by Hoyleton Youth & Family Services and is funded in part by Illinois Department of Human Services. Mental Health First Aid USA is a training designed to give people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The course uses techniques to demonstrate how to recognize

and respond to the warning signs of specific illnesses.

Here are the dates, times and locations:

- February 9 & 10 from 8 am-12:15 pm at YMCA in Maryville
- February 16 from 8 am-5:30 pm at YMCA in Belleville
- February 24 from 8 am-5:30 pm at SIUE in Edwardsville
- March 5 from 8 am-5:30 pm at Regency Conference Center in O'Fallon
- March 23 & 24 from 11 am-3:15 pm at YMCA in Granite City

Registration [Link](#). For more information contact Allison at 618-688-4776.

Continuing Education Units for LSW, LCSW, LPC, & LCPC available upon request.

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services invites you to help in Funding the Need for our organization by attending this year's ROCK THE NEED GALA on Fri, Feb 9, 2018 at The Fountains Conference Center, 319 Fountains Parkway, Fairview Heights. Cocktail Hour begins at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. You will have many opportunities to **FUND THE NEED** for many critical, life-changing measures; including emergency support for Foster Care Children and Families and immediate support for victims of human trafficking. Entertainment by: Butch Wax and the Hollywood's from 8-10 pm. Dinner is \$50 per person or \$375 per table of 8. Reservations must be made to agarrison@hoyleton.org or 618-688-4742 by 1/30/2018. **Sponsorship Opportunities Available.**



▲ The Alzheimer's Association will offer free consultations to discuss dementia and Alzheimer's related issues on Thurs, Feb 1 from 9 am - 3:30 pm at St. John's Community Care Adult Day Program in Edwardsville. Appointments are required. Register by Tues, Jan 30 at 314-801-0399. Walk-ins accepted only if time allows.

▲ St. John's Community Care 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 series of 6 classes will be held on Thursday mornings from 10 - noon on Feb. 15 & 22 - March 1, 8, 15, 22 at Ruth's House, 7325 Marine Rd, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Each series is limited to a maximum of 12 families. There is no cost to those attending. Registration is required. Ruth's House is offering complimentary care for people with dementia with reservations. Call 618-344-5008.

Celebrate Seminary Sunday on February 25

Why Celebrate Seminary Sunday?

Our UCC seminaries are filled with faithful, committed students seeking the skills and wisdom necessary to lead the church in the 21st century. Our congregations need these students. In our region, we are blessed to have three fine UCC seminaries - Chicago, United, and Eden. Each of these seminaries provides quality education for pastors and lay leaders, and they provide research and resources that serve the entire UCC.

How to Celebrate Seminary Sunday

- Lift up our UCC seminaries and seminarians in prayer, in mission moments, and in your bulletins.
- Post materials about Chicago, Eden, and United Seminaries on bulletin boards.
- Include a special prayer or litany in your service.
- Show a five-minute CUE Seminaries DVD.

- Include a gift to CUE Seminaries in your church budget or to take a special offering.
- DVDs, bulletin inserts, posters, and offering envelopes are available at CUE Seminaries [website](#).

Please join us on Feb 25 in supporting the current and future leadership of the UCC by celebrating Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries.

If you would like someone from a CUE Seminary to visit your congregation to help with worship leadership for Seminary Sunday, please contact:

Chicago Theological Seminary Chad Schwickerath, 773-896-2434 or chad.schwickerath@ctschicago.edu

United Theological Seminary Carla Marchio, 651-255-6138 or cmarchio@unitedseminary.edu

Eden Theological Seminary Lorin Cope, lcope@eden.edu or 314-918-2549

Each seminary will do its best to accommodate each request.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...



Save the Date: Regional Youth Event (RYE) is scheduled for July 5-8 at Elmhurst College (west of Chicago). ISC is working on an event organizing team for this event for youth who have completed 6th-12th grades. To keep up with the event, go to their Facebook [page](#).

Yearbook Time Is Here! It is open for input and Closes on March 7, 2018

Although this yearly task may seem daunting, it will help your church in many ways...

- The 11-year report provided by the data can be used when reviewing budgets, calling a pastor, and planning for future missions.
- The statistical information for ministerial support (which is not tied to individuals or churches) helps National UCC to provide statistics for compensation guidelines.
- Trends about church-going and the needs to be met by our churches is part of the statistical information we can pull from the database.

So, though it may seem daunting and/or like busy-work, there is a method to the madness.

Instructions have been sent to the churches.

The database closes on March 7, 2018 at midnight. The ISC office can input the information if you do not want to do it online. Send information to Lynnette at lschuepbach@iscucc.org. Here is a [form](#) to help you gather the information you need.

Thought You Should Know...

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2018, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 54.5 cents for every mile of business travel driven, up 1 cent from the rate for 2017.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The 37th Annual Rural Ministry Conference will be held on March 4 - 6, 2018 in Dubuque, Iowa. This ecumenical conference, sponsored by Wartburg Theological Seminary, is designed for pastors and lay leaders in rural and small town congregations. The topic for this year is "Co-operating Congregations in Mission." The keynote speaker, Pastor Marcia Kifer, is a dynamic speaker with many years of experience in a variety of ministry models and will explore a variety of newer ministry models for smaller congregations. Breakouts include worship for smaller congregations, and evangelism in rural areas. Click [here](#) for a more information or [email](#) Rev. Dr. Ann Fritschel.

Job Opportunities - Church Relations Associate - Fund Raising and Donor Development

These are two part-time positions responsible for fund-raising and donor development activities with Back Bay Mission's (BBM) United Church of Christ constituency and other interested congregations. Thorough familiarity with the United Church of Christ is essential. At least one of the candidates will be within a day's drive of the Mission with both candidates based in their home. Each part-time position will be responsible for a geographic area (Northeast, Midwest, Southeast).

Click [here](#) to download more information.

Region 2

Dupo Christ UCC will sponsor A Night at the Races on Fri, March 23 in Sugar Loaf Township Bldg

Region 7

Okawville St. Peter's UCC will hold its Wurst Markt on Sun, Feb 11 from 3 pm - 7 pm in their

Region 9

Belleville Trinity UCC will host its 29th Annual Chicken & Dumplings Dinner on Sun, Feb 25

in Dupo beginning at 7 pm. It will be an action-packed, heart-pounding, video-taped horse racing event. Doors open at 6 pm. 50/50 raffle. Silent auction. Bring your own food and drinks. All proceeds go to Christ UCC. \$10/person. Must be 18 years old to attend.

educational building. All you can eat menu of pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, pie or dessert, and drink. Adults \$11; Children 6 - 12 \$5; Children under 5 Free. Carry outs \$11. Place meat/sausage orders by Feb 5 to Melinda Albers 618-243-5354.

from 11 am - 3 pm. Menu includes home-made chicken & dumplings, green beans, corn, home-made cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, tea or coffee and dessert. Adults \$10; Children 5-12 \$4; Children 4 and under Free. Bakery. Boutique. Baskets. Carry outs available.

Region 5

Highland Evangelical UCC will hold its We Love Kindercottage Chili Cookoff on Sun, Feb 18 from 11 am - 2 pm. You can find entry forms at EvUCC.org or email Kay Ahaus at kayahaus@yahoo.com or call 618-520-1790 by Feb 11. Cost is \$15 per entry. If you don't want to cook, come and eat. \$5 for a Tasting Kit; \$4 for a bowl. Cash only. There will be prizes for favorite chili, most spicy, best table decor, and people's choice. Proceeds benefit Uni-Pres Kindercottage.

Region 9

Belleville's Community Interfaith Food Pantry will hold its 1st Annual Food-Stock Concert at Belleville St. Paul UCC on Sat, March 4 at 2:30 pm. Concert features music from the celebration bands and choirs from St. Paul UCC, St. Teresa's and Peace Lutheran churches. Free entry with canned goods or monetary donations. Call 618-233-3303 for information and/or tickets.

Belleville St. Paul UCC will hold its Valentine Dinner & Concert on Sat, Feb 10 beginning at 6:15 pm for dinner and concert at 7:15 pm. Concert features Sounds of Harmony Chorus. Tickets \$17 per person. Call 618-233-3303 for information and/or tickets.