

Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 11, 2018 - February 17, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Carter G. Woodson (credit Library of Congress) the man behind Black History Month

Origins of Black History Month

as reported from www.history.com

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History

Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.

That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations and establish history clubs.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Read [more](#).

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

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[Neighborhood Houses](#)

[New Athens Home](#)

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

[St. Paul's Home](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

[ISC Directory](#)



The ISC Hunger/Action Committee invites you to attend the next Metro East Food Pantry Network Meeting on Wed, Feb 21 at 2 pm at the University of Illinois Extension, 1 Regency Plaza Dr, Ste 200, Collinsville. All food pantries are invited to attend. Food pantries are an important part of our food safety system working to provide safe food to those most in need.

There are many strategies pantries can implement to help ensure that the food on the shelf is safe. Join us for an informative presentation by local health departments on food safety in pantry environments and tips and resources available to you. Networking and free, recipe cards, posters and resources will be available during the February meeting. RSVP to Amy Funk at 618-344-4230 or amyfunk@illinois.edu.



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



Pray for...

**Prayer list for
Feb 11 - Feb 17, 2018
Churches & Pastors**

- Valmeyer St. John UCC, Rev. Elizabeth Terrill, Interim Pastor
- Waterloo St. Paul UCC

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.

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 lectionary reading for this past Sunday is one of the more familiar healings by Jesus. I have preached on the text many times. Yet, this past week in my time of study, I had an AHA moment through which I was reminded of the incredible power of God's redemption and grace.

The story begins simply. *"As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once (Mark 1: 29-30)."*

At first reading, this doesn't sound very dramatic and quite honestly not very interesting. Jesus and the disciples had been in the synagogue, and while Jesus was teaching and preaching, the man with the unclean spirit interrupted him. The result of this scene of chaos and commotion was the first healing of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Mark.

Yet, now they have headed to the house of Simon and Andrew for food and a night's rest. Simon calls Jesus' attention to his mother-in-law's condition. The text says she had a fever. In the ancient world, a fever could mean a number of things. It could mean the body was fighting a serious infection and the family could only hope the infection would not win. Fevers were also dangerous because if the body temperature became too high for too long of a period, it could damage the eyes, stomach, heart, or the brain. A fever could be deadly.

An unexpected illness, such as a fever, also caused alarm because people did not know the cause and did not know if the person was contagious. Immediately, someone suffering with a fever would be isolated. Illness in the ancient world was not as much about biomedical matter, but rather a social one.

Incapacitated by the fever was a condition that I imagine was isolating for her. She would have been unable to socialize, unable to participate in worship, unable to participate in the public aspects of life.

Yet, Jesus was willing to enter into her physical space, to be present with her. His willingness to be present with her in the midst of her isolation and suffering was the beginning of the healing.

But here is where the AHA moment came for me, considering the most accurate translation from the original Greek for verse 31 of Mark 1. *"He came and took her by the hand and raised her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them."*

The word to be raised up or lifted up is the same word that is later used in Mark 16: 6 to talk about the resurrection. The word used in both places is *egeiro*.

Jesus lifts her up. Jesus raised her. Jesus resurrected her. By Jesus' touch, she is restored, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Her immediate response to this healing is to be of service.

For years, I have missed this aspect because I referred to translations that said something like, "The fever left her, and she began to wait on them." To me, it sounded like Jesus healed her so she could get up and make sandwiches for the men.

However, the word that is often translated, as "wait" is better translated as "serve." The Greek word in Mark 1:30 is *diakonia*, the word we use in the Christian tradition to mean one who is in service to the Lord, such as a deacon. Imagine, she is not healed so that she can be restored as the disciples' personal wait staff. She is healed to be a disciple, a deacon (deaconess) to be in service to the Lord.

Hers is a deeply spiritual response. Her response as she gets up and shows hospitality to her guests is not about gender roles. Rather, her response is the power of Christ that restored her and made her whole. It is a powerful story of

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Robert and Doris Utke, Falcon Heights, MN

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.



the redemptive power of God.

I believe that there is no greater response to the transforming, redemptive power of Christ in our lives than to be in service to others. May we remember the call of Christ is to follow the example of his life and ministry. To be those who do not wish to be served, but those who are led to serve. In our service, may our lives not only reflect Christ, but also enable other to experience the power of Christ's love, grace, healing, and joy.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister



Join Us for the Missouri Mid-South & Illinois South Conference Gathering

On the evening of Friday, March 2, during the CHHSM Annual Gathering, we will celebrate our host city, St. Louis, and all of 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 only \$25 for guests not registered for the full Annual Gathering event.

Tickets are available for purchase [online](#) through Friday, February 23,

2018. Choose "Special Celebration Dinner" from the drop-down menu. If you are registered for the CHHSM Annual Gathering, you do not need to purchase a separate ticket for this event.

What: Missouri Mid-South/Illinois South CHHSM Gateway Celebration

When: 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, March 2. **Where:** [Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel](#) For questions, contact Catherine Kane at kanec@chhsm.org or 216-618-3927 or 216-736-2259.



Coming to Camp near You this Summer!



SNEAK PEEK Summer Camp 2018!

The countdown has begun! Here at DuBois Center, we are busy planning yet another incredible summer!

Registration opens

February 28, so watch for the brochure later this month. Use this [schedule](#) to begin planning your summer now! Check out our [Facebook](#) page to stay up-to-date. Questions? Contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

SPRING BROCHURE

Spring is a great time of year at DuBois Center! Signs of new life are everywhere. The air is fresh and clear, and there is so much to do. Our reservation book is filling with youth groups, school camps, retreats for women and confirmation students, church work days and scout groups. There is still time to plan an event for your church or group, or to get involved in one of the many events sponsored by DuBois Center. Our **Spring Brochure** has information about our Father-Son Retreat, Wrangle & Ride, Service Saturdays, and more. Click [here](#) for a copy. Online registration opens February 15; registration by [mail](#) is open now.





**Buddy to Buddy
Mission Experience
June 30 - July 3**

This close-to-home mission experience offers teens the opportunity to "live kindness, do justice and walk humbly." Youth encounter God as they participate together with young people from Hoyleton's youth residential programs. They swim, create cool crafts, play games and

more! Buddies walk hand in hand with their biblical "neighbors" and practice sincere acceptance and respect. Daily reflections and prayer times focus on diversity, justice and our role as Christians. Click [here](#) to learn more or contact Shirley at DuBois Center 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 shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Happy swimming!



TWO SESSIONS!! Just You & Me Camp

Last summer, our Just You & Me Camp was packed with a waiting list. This year, there are two sessions from which to choose: June 10-12 and June 24-26. Spend quality one-on-one time with a special child in your life - son, daughter, niece, nephew, godchild... Try out some favorite camp activities together. Canoe, play on the water mat, create a treasure or ride a horse. Make new friends around the dining table and during family game times. Learn more about God and God's love during BLAST and Vespers. Make memories

together that will last a lifetime. Online registration opens February 28.



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



2nd Annual Night at the Improv

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 & Joculariry 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. Or save the above slide for your PowerPoint presentation.



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.



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...

FREE HP Printer ink

We have 2 HP#56 Black and 2 HP#57 Tri-color cartridges that cannot be used at the office. Anyone interested in getting the ink cartridges should contact Lynnette at 618-654-2125 or lschuepbach@iscucc.org.

Sixty-fifth Birthday Party for Rev. Douglas Anders - You're Invited

Meet and Greet Gathering for Douglas Anders' 65th birthday will be held on Sun, Feb 18 from 3 pm - 5 pm at the Kirkwood UCC, 1603 Dougherty Ferry Rd, (near I-270 & Dougherty Ferry Rd), Kirkwood, MO. Light finger foods, assorted drinks, assorted cakes and desserts. Birthday cake will be cut around 4:30 pm. RSVP to douglas.uccrev@att.net or 314-546-6772. But even if you don't RSVP and can come at the last minute, please do. No gifts please, but if you opt to make a contribution in honor of his birthday, choose from Deaconess Nurse Ministry or United Church of Christ-Habitat for Humanity. If you cannot attend, cards may be sent to Douglas Anders at 2921 Maniteau Dr, St. Louis, MO 63121.



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.

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



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](#).

You're the Best!! It's good to see that several of you have reported your yearly information for the UCC Yearbook already!

Here's why!!! 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.

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 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.

Region 4

Brighton St. John's UCC will hold a Fish Fry every Friday from Feb. 23- March 23 serving from 11 am - 6 pm. Menu includes: White or Buffalo fish dinners including bread, choice of potato salad, baked beans, green beans, mac and cheese, coleslaw, and desserts galore. Hot dogs, brats and drinks also available. Sandwich \$5 or Meal (fish, two sides, dessert and drink) \$10. Deliveries to area businesses and schools during lunch hour. Call church at 618-372-3737.

Wood River St. John UCC will hold its 12th Annual All You Can Eat Pancake & Sausage Supper on Shrove Tues, Feb 13 from 4 pm -7 pm. All are welcome.

Region 5

Marine UCC is hosting a jigsaw puzzle competition, called Puzzle Mania, on Sat, Feb 17. Doors open at 6:30 pm, puzzling starts at 7 pm. Teams can hold up to 6 people. \$10.00 per person, at the door. Concessions available, and no outside food or drink, please. Spots are limited, so please call 618-887-4465 and leave your name and how many people are on your team. Secure your place at the event today!

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.

Staunton St. Paul UCC will host a Trivia Night on Sat, Feb 24 at the Staunton Country Club. Doors open at 6 pm. Play begins at 6:30 pm. Live Music by Matt Larsen. Beer/Soda Tasting. Name That Smell. Silent Auction. 50/50. \$15 per person with teams up to 8 people. Reserve a table at 618-635-2386. Alcohol must be purchased at the bar.

Region 7

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

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

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.

Belleville Concordia UCC will host its Annual All you can eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sat, Feb 24 from 7 am - 10 am. Choice of pancakes are Buttermilk and home-made Oatmeal Pancakes. Adults \$8; Children \$5; Under 5 Free. Carry outs available.