

Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 18, 2018 - February 24, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Illinois South Conference

of the United Church of Christ

joyfully invites you to a

Service of Installation

to celebrate the calling of

The Rev. Shana Johnson

as our settled

Conference Minister

Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 3:00 pm

Evangelical United Church of Christ, 2520

Poplar Street, Highland, Illinois

Rev. Johnson invites representatives from all

Illinois South Conference churches to attend the

Celebration of her Installation as the settled Conference Minister.

No gifts are necessary.

However, if your church cannot be represented by your pastor or members and you would like to support the work of the Illinois South Conference, please consider a donation to the ISC Friends of the Conference fund.

Your gifts to Friends of the Conference will help fund the work we do in the Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center.

Your gifts help provide assistance with the search and call process, education and training for church leaders, as well as opportunities to serve, to be in mission, and to grow spiritually.

Thank you for your support and investment in the churches and the people of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Shana Johnson came to us as our Designated Conference Minister in 2016 with the understanding that she could be called as the settled Conference Minister within the three year contract if that decision was mutually beneficial to her and the Conference. At the 2017 Annual Meeting, the delegates voted to call her as the settled Conference Minister. The next step is to install her in that position.

Day of Discipleship - Click [here](#) to register online.

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

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.

Click here for a bulletin [insert](#).

Choose from these workshops:

[Be the Church: A Mission Planning Guide for Congregations](#)

Presented by Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Director of UCC CARD (Center for Analytics, Research and Data).

[Mission Trips within the United States](#)

Presented by Roger Harris, Belleville St. Paul UCC.

[Ecuador Partnership - Mission in Action](#)

Presented by Lee-Alison Wilson, Belleville St. Paul UCC and Rev. John Holst, Marion Zion UCC.

[Finding Mission in Your Own Community](#)

Presented by Rev. Katie-Jo Bielke, Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC.



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
Feb 18 - Feb 24, 2018
Churches & Pastors

- Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe,
Rev. Nancy (Kevin Lee) Spier-
Lee

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Presented by a panel of Dana Callahan, Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC; Sandy Ritter, Belleville St. Paul UCC; Carol Meeks, Edwardsville St. Paul UCC.

Carry Out or Delivery?

Presented by a panel of Rev. Laurie Creilly, Brighton St. John UCC; Missy Loyet, Highland Evangelical UCC; and Rev. Carol Shanks, Cahokia Bethel UCC.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Presented by Margie Lindhorst, Columbia St. Paul UCC; Pastor Norma Patterson and Milton Jones, East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith UCC.

Shelter in Times of Trouble

Presented by Pastor Cory Hartz and members of Belleville Trinity UCC.

Setting a Healthy Table for All

Presented by Rev. Donna Pupillo, Deaconess Nurse Ministries.

The Story - Making Disciples

Presented by Rev. Earl Crecelius, Freeburg St. Paul's UCC.

Growing Church Membership With Older Adult Ministries

Presented by Jan Aerie, MS, gerontologist, family counselor, former UCC national staff member.

The Mission of Being an Open & Affirming Congregation

Presented by Dr. Jill Baker, ISC Vice Moderator.

- Wood River St. John UCC, Rev. Michael (Sue) Southcombe
Retired Pastor
- Rev. John and Shirley Trnka, Newburgh, IN

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.



Mardi Gras - Shrove Tuesday - Fat Tuesday

Today is a day to indulge. In many traditions, today is referred to as Shrove Tuesday. Shrove comes from the word shrive which means absolve. Thus, Shrove Tuesday is the day before Christians seek absolution from their sins on Ash Wednesday.

Another name for today is Fat Tuesday which sounds much more elegant in French-Mardi Gras. Fat Tuesday refers to the tradition of eating, drinking, and indulging before giving up gluttonous ways. All of

these traditions signify our preparations for getting right with God and coming clean. Although there are different names for today, there seems to be a common element of indulgence.

I think this reveals humanity's tendency to live in the extremes. You are either good or bad. Either you are abstaining from your temptations or you are giving in without abandon. Either you are playing the game with rules or the rules do not apply to you.

Think about when someone is preparing to go on a diet.

What is often the first thing they do?

Go on a binge.

A young man is about to get married.

What do his friends do for him?

They throw him a bachelor party. A last hurrah.

Before we move into a season of what we see as being "good", we want to get out all of our "bad" first.

I think this also reveals the deep ways humanity bristles against rules and boundaries.

Tell someone they cannot do something, and immediately they want to do it.

Create a law, rule, or policy, and immediately someone will question it and be tempted to break it.

You do not have to look too far into the scriptures themselves to see this tendency.

In fact, you do not have to look further than the Garden of Eden.

Yet, instead of seeing the season of Lent in extremes, I think it is important and helpful for us to consider what this season is NOT and WHAT IT IS.

Lent is NOT...

meant to be a season of killing your joy and dulling your pleasures.

meant to be that last chance to finally get it right.

meant to be a time of feeling bad about how much we mess up.

Lent IS....

meant to be an opportunity to think about the things we can do better.

meant to examine the bad habits and the patterns we have slipped into.

meant to be a time to admit that we are not perfect, but we are forgiven AND made new each day by God.

Ashes were once mixed with oil to make a cleaning product. They were the first soaps. And so when we are marked by the ashes on Ash Wednesday we are essentially being marked with soap. The ashes represent that we need to be cleansed. We need the power, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ in order to be made new. This is our salvation. However, I also believe one of the biggest misunderstandings of salvation is that we need to be cleaned only once.

When someone asks me, "Are you saved?" My response is often, "Yes, every day. Every day I need to be saved from my selfishness, my self-centeredness and my sinfulness."

Sometimes, we can lie to ourselves and think-"Hey, I am doing pretty good. I do not need to look at how I can better myself." However, the truth is we do not see the grime and filth that sticks to us without us even realizing it.

In the last couple of weeks with the salt on the sidewalks and the mud from the thawing of the snow and ice, my husband and I have tried to keep our floors and our dogs clean. The dogs are much more of a challenge. Our younger dog, Joseph, seems especially attracted to dirt and mud.

Last week I had given both Abraham and Joseph baths. Trimmed them up, dried them and they were pristine clean. Then today as we were on a walk Joey decided to play in a mud puddle. When we got back to the house our little caramel colored dog, looked more like the color of a strong espresso (without the cream).

As I put him into the bath, I couldn't believe how much mud and dirt came pouring off him. It was caked into his paws and tail. Certainly not all of it was from his romp in the mud puddle. It took me a good twenty minutes to get him clean. After I was done bathing him and I was toweling him dry, I said to him, "Joey, why can't you stay clean?" He looked right back at me as if to say, "Why can't you?"

The truth is we all need to be washed of the dirt and the filth of the world that sticks to us. It cakes on us and hides in the recesses of our minds, our hearts and spirits.

As we enter this Lenten season, let's not come begrudgingly to God.

Rather let us come joyfully, knowing that we need to come clean before God, and we need to be cleansed by the power of Christ's grace, mercy and love.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister



SHANA'S JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 14	Preaching at Community Ash Wednesday Service at St. John UCC, Trenton
February 18	Preaching at St. Peter UCC, Red Bud
February 25	Preaching at St. Paul UCC in Waterloo
March 4	Worshiping in Cleveland with Council of Conference Ministers
March 11	Worshiping with the AM21 Planning Committee

I am planning my worship schedule to join as many of the ISC churches in 2018 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 Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Church of the Good Shepherd in Carbondale is leading the way in renewable energy and reducing its carbon footprint by installing solar panels on its building.

The panels will run everything from the lights to the electronic organ. It's the first church in southern Illinois to have a solar energy system installed.

"We look forward to seeing it being finished in the next day or two, and helping us save not just money, but save the environment as much as we can," said church member Dale Ritzel.

Members say the church is centered on being a progressive community focused on leading by example.

"As a church, we need to be setting the example for what our members do, as well as other people in the community that are interested in saving some trees," said Dale.

Straight Up Solar is installing the 24 solar panels.

"They are going to get 40 years' worth of energy for about 15

months of bills. It's not hard to say no one can compete with that, but that's the reality of solar now," said Solar Project Developer Brent Ritzel.

The panels will continue to save the church money even at night. Read [more](#) and watch a video.



Ecclesiastical Council Overwhelmingly Approves Jason Eisele for Ordination

Jason Eisele completed his preparation for ordination with the ISC Committee on Ministry and was overwhelmingly approved by ISC delegates to Illinois South Conference's Ecclesiastical Council at St. Paul UCC in Nashville on Sunday, February 10, 2018 at 3 pm. He is now awaiting a call to be ordained. Congratulations Jason.



Illinois Conference of Churches' anti-racism team, Illinois Christians Encounter Racism (ICER), is arranging for buses to Washington DC for the anti-racism rally on the national mall on April 4, the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The service in Memphis will be broadcast on the mall. Buses will leave from LaGrange, Springfield and Carbondale. Cost is \$175 per person which includes the bus, a sack lunch, bottle of water and t-shirt. This is our direct cost with no mark-up. Please share with your congregations, anti-racism teams, brothers and sisters of other faiths and pray for us as we take on this big challenge. To register, click [here](#).



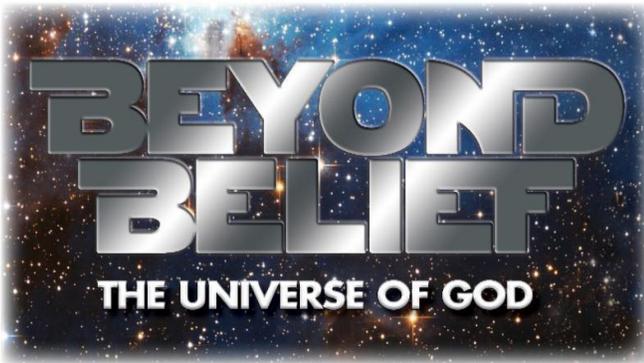
Join Us for the Missouri Mid-South & Illinois South Conference Gathering

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: [Mariott St. Louis Grand Hotel](#) For questions, contact Catherine Kane at kane@chhsm.org or 216-618-3927 or 216-736-2259.

DuBois Center News

The Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ



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.



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.

SPRING BROCHURE

Check your mailbox! Spring brochures have been mailed and should arrive any day now. If you're not on our mailing list but would like more information about our Father-Son Retreat, Wrangle & Ride, Service Saturdays



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.



Volunteer NURSES Needed Spend 3-6 Days at DuBois Center

Share your skills and make a difference! Camp Nurses, most of whom are RNs, play a key role in providing safe and fun experiences during DuBois Center summer camps. Many find it to be a very rewarding opportunity for ministry; one that is quite different than their regular jobs. Camp nurses review camper medical forms, conduct health screenings, administer medications, and provide first aid, basic medical treatment and extra TLC for homesick campers. The nurses' living quarters are air-conditioned, and it's not all work and no play. There is often time to sit back and read a good book, take a hike or dip your toes in the lake. For more information about this ministry opportunity, contact Shirley at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



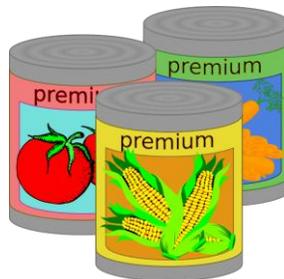
SUMMER JOBS - DuBois Center Equestrian Program

Looking for a rewarding summer job working with children and horses? How about hands-on experience managing a trail ride program? DuBois Center has openings for a dedicated summer barn coordinator and two barn assistants/cabin counselors. Spending time with the horses is a highlight for many of our campers. In addition to caring for our 20-horse herd, our summer barn staff utilize basic riding instruction and time "getting to know the ponies" to help campers build self-confidence and learn to respect and appreciate God's amazing creation. For those who have never experienced a horse up close, the first moments can be overwhelming. However, with nurturing guidance, campers quickly learn that they can overcome their fears and experience something wonderful. Tears often transform into giant smiles. The joy campers show is definitely reward enough, but serving on the summer barn staff also provides hands-on work experience for individuals considering a career in the equine field. For more information, check out the attached [flyer](#) or contact Shirley at shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or at 618-787-2202.

or our Block Party, click [here](#) for a copy. Online registration opens February 15; registration by [mail](#) is open now.



Church Alert: If you'd like a stack of Spring Brochures for an event or to insert into Sunday bulletins, call DuBois Center at 618-787-2202. Help spread the word!



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.

SPRING LINE-UP

2/17-18	Sat-Sun	ISC Festival of Faith for Middle Schoolers
2/24	Saturday	Bunco Night at St. Paul, Columbia (Sponsored by Region 2)
3/24	Saturday	Service Saturday - Lenten Work Day
4/11	Wed	Nature's Classroom Season Begins
4/13-15	Fri-Sun	Father & Son Retreat
4/21	Saturday	Wrangle & Ride - Horse Day Service Saturday
5/6	Sunday	BLOCK Party for Middle Schoolers
5/14-18	Mon-Fri	St. Paul UCC, Belleville Work Week
5/21-23	Mon-Wed	Southern Illinois Art Workshop
5/30	Wed	Summer Camp Staff Training Begins
6/10	Sunday	1 st Day of Summer Camp 2018

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!



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 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 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.



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

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...



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.

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.

To all who would like a time of sharing over lunch, we extend a cordial welcome to attend THE PASTORS/SPOUSES FELLOWSHIP on Thurs, Feb 22 (Washington's birthday) at the Red Apple Restaurant in Maryville beginning at 11:30 am. Generally this group is made up of retired folks, but others in our Illinois South UCC family are invited to attend as well. A good time of informal sharing around the tables is in store for all who choose to come. Please RSVP to Herb & Bennie Schafale 618-476-3925 or herbenne@wisperhome.com no later than Mon, Feb 19.

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.



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.

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-

Region 4

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 8

Marissa Friedens UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sat, March 17 from 3 pm to 7 pm. All are welcome.

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.



BUNCO NIGHT at St. Paul UCC in Columbia, IL will be held on Sat, Feb 24 to support DuBois Center and a

community hunger program. Click [here](#) for details & a flyer to print and share.

Region 3

Granite City St. Peter UCC will hold a Quarter Auction on Sat, Feb 24. Doors open at 6:30 pm and auction starts at 7:30 pm.

Lots of vendors so bring cash to buy. Food/snacks and non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase. Cost is \$15 per first paddle. \$25 per First "All IN" paddle. \$10 per second paddle. Cash only.

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.

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!

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. 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.

Staunton St. Paul Youth Group, Exhale, will sponsor an All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on Sun, March 11 from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Menu includes sausage, eggs, coffee, milk and juice. Proceeds go toward the youths' summer mission trip to Houston, Texas. Adults \$10; Children \$6. Contact Becca at 618-520-0185.

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 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: Buttermilk and home-made Oatmeal Pancakes. Adults \$8; Children \$5; Under 5 Free. Carry outs available.