

# Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 25, 2018 - March 3, 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 on **Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 3:00 pm** at Evangelical UCC 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.*

## We Need Your Numbers!

If you have registrations for Day of Discipleship and need to wait for paperwork, please call 618-654-2125 to tell Christy how many will be coming so that we can plan for food. Thanks.

**TODAY Is Last Chance for Early-Bird Price for 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](#).



## UCC Planning and Evaluation Survey

The UCC's Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) is conducting a survey to identify potential needs around planning and evaluation within all settings of the United Church of Christ. The goal is to compile the responses and create the most helpful resources for effective planning and evaluation, with special attention to resources for local churches.

**The survey will take between 15-20 minutes to complete.** Responses are anonymous, although we do ask for the name of your setting to reduce overlap in response. The results of the survey will be shared with various stakeholders across the United Church of Christ.

Please complete the survey by **Friday, March 16**. Thank you for taking the time to provide your valued feedback! Click [here](#) to take the survey.

## Important Links

[iscucc.org/](http://iscucc.org/)

[duboiscenter.org](http://duboiscenter.org)

[ucc.org](http://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 25 - March 3, 2018**  
**Churches & Pastors**

- Addieville Zion UCC, Rev. William Groennert
- Alhambra Salem UCC, Rev. Ivan Schoen, Interim Sr. Pastor

## Burying the Alleluia

There is a tradition that goes back to at least the fifth century in the western Church of omitting "alleluias" during the Lenten season. Since "alleluia" was and is associated with Easter, it became a custom of intentionally omitting it from the liturgy, prayers and songs. It was a kind of a verbal fast. It created a sense of anticipation and even greater joy when the familiar word of praise returned.

Eventually the idea of "burying alleluias" emerged. This is done in a variety of ways. Some churches print out the word on strips of paper and invite parishioners to bury the paper underneath a flower bulb, such as a tulip or a daffodil. The idea being, when a shoot from the ground is visible or maybe even the whole flower itself, it is a reminder of the resurrection. Some churches simply hide an Alleluia banner around the church building and then have the children look for it on Sunday morning.

When burying the alleluia, we let it rest, as it were, during Lent, so that when it reappears on Easter, we may hear it anew. In fact, once it returns on Easter, we give it no rest at all, repeating it again and again in liturgy, prayers and songs, in the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

I have been thinking quite a bit about this tradition in the last couple of days. I worry that in the church and certainly in our country right now, we have buried our alleluias. We have lost our ability to see and proclaim the hope, joy, and wonder of this life that God has given us.

The truth is we don't have to search too far or think too long to realize why we have temporarily lost our alleluias.

We have lost our patience in waiting for something life-giving to emerge in the midst of such death and destruction.

We have lost our ability to look for signs of positive change and action.

We have lost our belief that love indeed is stronger than evil.

We have lost our courage and our nerve to dare to believe in and work towards a better tomorrow for our children and grandchildren.

Yes, we have lost our alleluias. We have buried them too deep, forgetting to search for them and rejoice in the true alleluias of hope eternal that still exists in our lives and in the world.

For a time, it is ok to bury our alleluias. Yet, my prayer for you, for me, for our country and this world is that in God's time and by God's resurrecting power, we will rediscover our alleluias. May we once again discover and rejoice in the transforming hope of Christ Jesus.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

### SHANA'S JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### 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](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org). **This is your OCWM monies at work.**

- Alhambra Salem UCC, Pastor John Mindrup, Associate Pastor  
**Retired Pastor**  
- Rev. Robert and Nancy Tripp, Effingham, IL

### **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.

**Our Whole Lives(OWL): Sexuality and Our Faith Facilitator Training will be held from April 12 - 14 at the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 10 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO.** Meals are included with the training. Training begins with a meal at 4 pm on Thursday, April 12 and ends on Sat, April 14 at 4 pm. You will have a choice of training levels of K-1, 4-6, Secondary or Adult. All participants must purchase and/or bring with them a copy of the curriculum for the levels they are being trained on. Before the training, contact the UUA bookstore or UCC

Resources to purchase the materials. Registration deadline is April 2. Click [here](#) for registration form or contact Tracey Harris at [tracey.harris@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:tracey.harris@firstchurchwg.org).



### **Jazz & Justice, Faith & Witness March 2-3, 2018 Certificate Course**

#### **"Confronting Reality: Life, Faith, Justice, Witness,"**

Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive minister of United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries

As pastor, Rev. Blackmon leads Christ The King in an expanded understanding of church as a sacred launching pad of community engagement and change.

The Rev. Traci Blackmon was elected the executive minister of United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries by delegates to General Synod 2017 on Sunday evening, July 2, after serving in that capacity as acting executive minister for 19 months.

#### **Elective Course**

##### **Jazz for the Journey**

Led by Cliff Aerie, the Oikos Ensemble, Rev. Geoffrey Black, Rev Ozzie Smith

Jazz for the Journey is an opportunity for pastors, church musicians, worship leaders, musicians, and jazz lovers to celebrate, share and explore the many possibilities of jazz as a contemporary faith language and creative vehicle for the Church's ministry. Produced by Rev. Geoffrey Black and Rev. Cliff Aerie, the event will feature inspiring music, creative theological reflection and hands-on learning experiences expressing the powerful possibilities for incorporating jazz into the worship and mission outreach of local congregations.

The Rev. Ozzie Smith, pastor of Covenant UCC, South Holland, Illinois will be the event preacher and workshop leader. Ozzie, also a noted jazz saxophonist, will perform with the Oikos Ensemble.

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

## **DuBois Center News**

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



#### **MEET our SUMMER STAFF**

Summer staff recruitment is in full swing, and we will be introducing members of our 2018 team through Weekly Connection and [Facebook](#). First up is Troy Mcrae. This will be Troy's second summer on staff. He will again make the long trek from Western Australia to DuBois, Illinois. Troy grew up in the "Aussie countryside" in the small town of Manjimup. Active in his church youth ministry and camping programs, he grew from youth participant to young adult volunteer leader. Troy loves being outside and spent a year as a trainee and instructor at an outdoor school. Canoeing, lifeguarding, "bush walking expeditions," food prep and equipment maintenance were all part of his experience there. Thinking back to 2016 when Troy



last served with us, his big smile, gentle nature and amazing height come to mind. Yes, he occasionally had to duck when going through doorways. When asked about his desire to return to DuBois Center, Troy commented, "I just felt drawn back to the overwhelmingly positive atmosphere at camp. It's impossible to finish each day without a smile on your face." He brings skills as an effective canoeing instructor, accomplished guitar player and caring camp counselor. His long-term goal is to become a professional outdoor educator. Aussie meat pies are Troy's favorite food. Two of his favorite hobbies are cycling and larping (think Lord of the Rings meets football, with a bit of theater improv thrown into the mix). He describes himself as a massive "pop culture nerd (in the best of ways)." Welcome back Troy!



**Coming to  
Camp near  
You this  
Summer!**

#### **DIGITAL CAMERAS**

##### **Used Compact Models Needed**

Great photos and smart phones go hand in hand nowadays. So what happened to all those small, point and shoot cameras - the Coolpix, PowerShot and FinePix? DuBois Center is in search of 8-10 used (or new) cameras. They are great for photo booths, scavenger hunts, photography classes and so much more. **Requirements:** good working condition and SD card compatible. For more information contact DuBois





## BUNCO NIGHT THIS SATURDAY February 24

Join Region 2 for an evening of fun and fellowship. This somewhat frenzied

dice game is so easy to learn, anyone can play! Gather the family, some friends and your youth group. THIS Saturday - February 24, doors open at St. Paul UCC in Columbia at 6:30 pm, and the game begins at 7 pm. Just \$10 per person covers the cost to play... and there's more! A 50/50 drawing and silent auction with a variety of fun items, as well as the HUNGER ACTION challenge will round out the evening. Snacks and soda available for purchase. Check out this [flyer](#) and share it with friends and neighbors. Funds raised support the ministry of DuBois Center; food items donated support a local food pantry.

Center at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.



## TALENT SCOUTS NEEDED

We are always on the lookout for caring, fun-loving individuals who enjoy the outdoors and have a heart for ministry to serve with us at DuBois Center. Paid and volunteer positions are available for Summer 2018. If you know someone who might be a good fit, either complete the information on this [form](#) or contact DuBois Center at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.



## WRANGLE & RIDE Saturday, April 21

Join our equestrian team on Saturday, April 21 from 9 am - 5 pm 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 or register [online](#). Questions? Contact DuBois Center at [dcinfo@duboiscenter.org](mailto: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 information. **RSVP** to DuBois Center at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.



**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 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.



When you are entering Illinois on the Poplar Street Bridge, keep your eyes on traffic, but glance at the electronic billboard in Illinois on the right side of the highway. The above billboard will be rotating with others. It stays up 10 seconds, so you may not see it every time you cross. They got this opportunity through the Troy Chamber of Commerce. It will be up for a year.

**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.

Approximate departure times on April 3

Approximate arrival time on April 5.

LaGrange: 5 pm

LaGrange: 6 am

Springfield: 3:30 pm

Springfield: 7:30 am

Carbondale: 3:30 pm

Carbondale: 7:30 am To register, click [here](#). Click [here](#) for a flyer.

**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 this slide for your PowerPoint presentation.





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

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

### 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 [Baqlunch 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 [kanec@chhsm.org](mailto:kanec@chhsm.org) or 216-618-3927 or 216-736-2259.

## What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

**Regions 5 and 3 are teaming up to present *A Face in the Crowd* for Lenten services.** Each week, the location will move from church to church. Services will be at 7 pm each Wednesday evening with refreshments following the services. All are invited. For more information, contact the host church for that week. The schedule is as follows.

Wednesday, Feb 21 - Marine UCC, Rev. Phil Kershner

Wednesday, Feb 28 - A readers' theater involving all participating church pastors at Marine UCC

Wednesday, March 7 - Hamel Immanuel UCC, Rev. Christy Eckert

Wednesday, March 14 - Edwardsville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Diane Grohmann

Wednesday, March 21 - Grantfork UCC, Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul

### 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](mailto:lschuepbach@iscucc.org).

### FREE High Chairs

Evangelical UCC in Highland has six high chairs available to give to anyone in need of one. Please contact the office at 618-654-7459 or [bbray@evucc.org](mailto:bbray@evucc.org). First come, first served.

### March 7 Deadline!!

Here's why reporting to National UCC for the Yearbook is important.

- 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](mailto: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,

### 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

### Region 8

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

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.

**St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will hold its 10th Auction on the evening of April 7.** Proceeds benefit their Homework, Help and Hoops afterschool and summer programs as well as their Home and Community Care program of in-house and home service programs for the elderly. All are welcome to attend. For tickets, contact the church at 618-344-2526.

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

**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.

**Hamel Immanuel UCC will hold its Family Style Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 18 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm.** Adults \$10; Children 6 - 9 \$5; Carry outs \$10. Quilt Raffle. Address is 5838 Staunton Rd, Edwardsville.

**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.** Choices of pancakes are Buttermilk and home-made Oatmeal Pancakes. Adults \$8; Children \$5; Under 5 Free. Carry outs available.