

Weekly Connection

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



March 3, 2018
Day of Discipleship
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

ISC Pride Reception
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Installation of Rev. Shana Johnson
as Conference Minister
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Call the ISC Office at 618-654-2125.

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 March 4 - 10 Churches & Pastors

- Belleville Christ UCC, Pastor Jon (Lisa) Tinge
- Belleville Concordia UCC, Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders, Interim Pastor



Walking in Your Own Shoes

When my oldest daughter was about five years old, she taught me an important lesson about not dressing someone else up in my own image. She taught me this through her "ruby shoes." For a period of almost three years, my daughter, thanks to my older sister, owned countless pairs of bright red glittery Mary Jane dress shoes--just like the shoes that Dorothy wore in the *Wizard of Oz*.

Abigail received her first pair of "ruby shoes" on her third birthday. Although, at that point she had not seen the *Wizard of Oz*. (That would come later, and it would become her favorite movie.) Abby was immediately enchanted with the bright glittery ruby red shoes. Those shoes became her most prized possession. She wore her "ruby shoes" with everything, and I do mean everything. She wore them with dresses; she wore them with blue jeans; she wore them with soccer shorts; she wore them with swimsuits; and she wore them with pajamas.

I was patient with this phase because I figured she would either grow tired of wearing them or eventually her feet would grow and she would no longer be able to wear them. The day finally came that she outgrew the shoes. As we "retired" the shoes to the pile for donation, I could not have been more relieved. However, this feeling was short lived, as the next day a package was delivered to the house. It was a package for Abigail from her Aunt Stacey. When she opened the package and saw what was inside, she squealed with delight. For lo and behold, you can guess what was inside. Yes, a new pair of ruby shoes in the next size up.

I begged and pleaded with her not to wear her ruby shoes with everything. I tried to appeal to her sensibilities that these were not always the most practical shoes for every activity. However, the ruby shoes phase went on for a very long time, especially after Abby saw the *Wizard of Oz*, and it became her favorite movie. Each time, Abby's feet would grow; my sister would send Abby a new pair of ruby shoes, the next size up. For Abby, the new pair gave her the assurance that she would always have the perfect shoes for any outfit and for any occasion.

We were getting ready for a funeral, I had picked out a very beautiful velvet dress for her and shoes to match. She of course wanted to wear her ruby shoes, but all I could think was, "What kind of mother would let her daughter wear red glittery shoes to a funeral?" Frustrated, I asked her, "Abby why do you insist on wearing those shoes with absolutely everything?" She looked down at her feet for a while, rocked back and forth, and then simply said, "Because they feel like me, Mommy." She wore her ruby shoes again that day. At that moment, I realized that I was trying to dress her in my own image. I was worried about what other people might think or what other people might say. It was not about her, but about me. I thought about the times when I had tried so hard to walk in someone else's shoes instead of my own. I had forgotten how good it felt to walk in my own shoes.

At times, we all forget how it feels to simply be ourselves. Sometimes we try to fit into someone else's image. Sometimes we fit others in our image. In such

moments, I hope we will be able to remember how good it feels to walk in our own shoes. May we experience and recall how wonderful, how freeing, how beautiful it is to walk in our own truth and beauty. Ultimately, may we discover the joy and great delight of being who God had created us to be and desire this not only for ourselves, but for all of God's people.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

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.

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.



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 or by calling 314-918-2554. Click here for a [flyer](#).

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Paul and Marilyn Thompson, Jr., Red Bud, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for Karen (Gary) Holtgrewe as she recuperates from surgery. Karen and Gary are members of Stone Church St. Peter's UCC. Karen is the chair of the ISC Conference Gatherings Team and Gary is a member of the ISC Finance Ministry Team. Cards may be sent to Karen at 4586 County Highway 6, Okawville, IL 62271.

- 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.



MEET our SUMMER STAFF!

Welcome Catie Goetter to our 2018 summer staff team! This will be Catie's second summer on staff; she will again be serving as a Barn Assistant/Counselor. Catie grew up in Maryville, Illinois and was active in church life and youth groups at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville before heading off to school. She is a sophomore at Missouri State University where marching band and student ministry programs keep her more than busy. At MSU Catie is majoring in special education. In addition, she is taking riding classes and volunteers with a therapeutic riding program. One of her goals is to further develop her riding and barn management skills, and then one day



serve as the Summer Barn Coordinator. Catie is passionate about DuBois Center and the experiences it provides for young people. She attended for years as a camper, horse retreatant, and ISCUCC youth event participant and planning team member. She successfully completed our CIT (Counselor in Training) program and volunteered as a counselor and at the barn whenever her schedule allowed. This summer she really wants to work on "helping others grow in their faith" and play her ukulele more. Catie wrote, "I am looking forward to working with old friends and new people, as well as getting back in the barn with my 4-legged friends." She's also can't wait to see her campers from last summer! In a reference Catie's band director wrote, "Catie is a joy to have around and a very hard worker." We definitely agree! Welcome back!



FATHER-SON RETREAT April 13-15

Calling all dads, lads, granddads, uncles and nephews! Spend quality time together at the annual DuBois Center Father-Son Retreat. Join Rev. RJ Morgan and DuBois Center staff and

volunteers for a weekend to remember. Fish, hike, canoe and explore together. Make cool crafts, share in vespers and work on your archery skills. Families participate together; activities are geared for boys age 5 and older. Horseback riding is available for an additional fee. Lodging is in heated cottages and Hickory Lodge. Register early for first choice of housing! Click [here](#) for a flyer and reservation form. [Online](#) registration is open. Questions? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.



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 for all positions. Questions? Contact Shirley at shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Application packets are available [online](#) or can be sent by email or mail.



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.



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

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](#) to view a copy online and [here](#) for a reservation form. For more information, contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



Counselors in Training (CIT) - June 24-29

CIT is a great opportunity for young people who are interested in developing their leadership skills, working with younger children, and having a great time at DuBois Center! The program functions much like a "lab school" with discussion, training, practice and evaluation sessions. Skills gained will help participants grow as positive Christian leaders, manage problematic behavior, create a safe, fun environment, and teach basic camp skills. CIT is designed for youth who have completed grades 10-12. Previous camp experience is NOT required. **NOTE:** A special application is required - in addition to the Camp Registration Form. The CIT application packet is available [online](#) or by contacting DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. For more information, check out this [flyer](#).

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



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:

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 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.



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 & 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.



What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...



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.

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 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 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. 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.

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-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

St. John UCC in Wood River will have its annual Lenten Fish Fry-days March 9, 16, 23 from 4 pm - 7 pm. All you can eat white fish with choice of 2 sides: potato salad, cole slaw or baked beans, drinks and dessert for \$9. Kids 6 - 10, \$5; Kids 5 and under are free. Sandwich only for \$5.

Region 5

Region 5

Troy Friedens UCC will host its annual Sausage Dinner on Sun, March 11 from 11:30 am. until 5:30 pm. Menu includes all you can eat grilled pork sausage, gravy and mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, sauerkraut, dessert and beverage. Adults \$10; Children 5-10 \$5; Children 4 and under free. Dine-in, carryout and the curbside service. Carry-outs and curbside will be available until 6 pm for \$10.

Region 3

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.

Region 4

Brighton St. John's UCC will hold a Fish Fry every Friday from March 2 - 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.

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.

Phone in your order to 618-667-6535 and it will be delivered to your car.

Region 8

Biddleborn Trinity UCC will hold its Chili/Soup Dinner on Sun, March 11 from 11 am - 2 pm. Menu is chili, vegetable beef soup, and more, hot dogs, dessert and drink. Free will donation. Larger quantities available for sale. In the church basement, handicapped accessible. For information, call 618-768-4528 or 618-314-2218 or 618-363-0449.

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

Region 9

Belleville's Community Interfaith Food Pantry will hold its 1st Annual Food-Stock Concert at Belleville St. Paul UCC on Sun, 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.