

# Weekly Connection

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



## TIME SPRINGS FORWARD ON MARCH 11!!

Before going to bed on March 10, move your clocks up one hour to accommodate the time change at 2 am. We want you to be on time for church!!



### Rev. Shana Johnson Installed as ISC Conference Minister

Many Illinois South Conference members and pastors, plus other Conference Ministers and the President of United Church of Christ, participated in the installation of Rev. Shana Johnson as ISC Conference Minister on Saturday, March 3 at the Evangelical UCC in Highland.

Participants (L to R): Rev. Dr. Don Wagner, Pastor of St. Paul UCC, Lebanon; Rev. Chris Hill, Senior Pastor of Evangelical UCC, Highland; Shirley Bergmann, ISC Treasurer; Rev. Jeffrey Schwab, Pastor of St. Peter's UCC, Okawville; Dr. Jill Baker, ISC Vice Moderator; Rev. Kevin Strobe, ISC Moderator and Pastor of St. Paul UCC, Carlinville; Rev. Ivan Horn, Pastor of Friedens UCC, Hecker; Rev. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister of Indiana-Kentucky Conference; Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver, past ISC Conference Minister; Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders, past Acting ISC Conference Minister and Interim Pastor for Concordia UCC, Belleville; Rev. Todd Bean, Pastor of St. John's UCC, Weldon Spring, MO and husband of Rev. Shana Johnson; Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of UCC; Rev. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister of Minnesota Conference; Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister; Rev. Sue Artt, Conference Minister of Rocky Mountain Conference; Megan Bean and Abigail Bean, daughters of Revs. Shana Johnson and Todd Bean; Rev. Christy Eckert, vocalist and Pastor of Immanuel UCC, Hamel; Tarrah Vaupel, vocalist and Member in Discernment in ISC. Look for more photos at [www.iscucc.org](http://www.iscucc.org).



### 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 March 11 - 17, 2018 Churches & Pastors**

- Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Robert Koepcke, Interim Pastor
- Belleville Trinity UCC, Pastor

## SHANA'S JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**March 4**

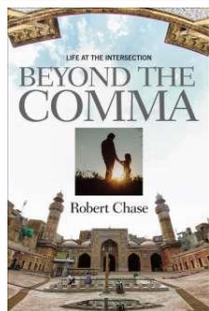
Worshiping in Cleveland with Council of Conference Ministers

**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](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org).

**This is your OCWM monies at work.**



**Beyond the Comma with author Rev. Robert Chase**

**Friday, March 16, 2018, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

**St. Paul UCC, 127 St. Paul St, Columbia, IL**

On Friday, March 16 at 3:00 pm, join acclaimed author and interfaith leader, Rev. Robert Chase, in an interactive afternoon on the theme of navigating differences that divide us in our complex world. Learn techniques for having courageous conversations in challenging circumstances--in our families, in our congregations, and across cultural, racial and geopolitical divides.

Bob served as the UCC's director of communication during the denomination's God Is Still Speaking campaign and offers a unique perspective on how the Still-speaking God challenges and calls us in our time.

In his new book, *Beyond the Comma*, Chase builds on the mark of punctuation that separates everything that comes before from all that is to follow, and applies it to the life journey. Some of life's "commas" are intentionally planned, some are imposed by forces beyond our control, often violently and without warning. The author challenges the reader to be attentive to these shifts in our lives and to navigate the multilayered "intersections" that such moments reveal. Chase contends that as we engage these moments creatively, we become more fully human.

Click [here](#) for more information.

### Save the Date!!

**The Illinois South Conference Confirmation Retreat is a tool for enhancing youth ministry in local congregations and a time for personal spiritual renewal.** It is designed as a supplement to the confirmation program of our local churches and it offers a unique opportunity for confirmation classes from across the Conference to bond within and between their groups. Music, worship, theme presentations, play times, discussion groups, and "hang out time" are all part of the retreat. If this sounds of interest to your confirmands/leaders, then please save the date for the 2018 Confirmation Retreat - September 14-15, 2018 at DuBois Center. And please make sure to include this retreat in your upcoming confirmation paperwork.



Mr. Michael Readinger bringing charge and blessing.

### Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being

In a sacred dedication Thursday, March 1, clergy and members of the UCC, Deaconess Foundation Trustees and staff and Deaconess Center Board members gathered to bless the grounds of the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being. The dedication celebration served as the Opening Worship for the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) of the United Church of Christ's Annual Gathering which convened in St. Louis from March 1 through March 3.

The consecration service centered around children and uplifted and affirmed their voices as Rev. Toni DiPina, pastor of Rockdale Congregational Church UCC in Northbridge, Massachusetts, delivered a hope-filled message while sharing her personal connection of having been abandoned at nine months old on the very grounds that the Deaconess Center now stands.



Rev. Starsky Wilson greeting those gathered.

Cory Hartz

**Retired Pastor**

- Rev. Jack Spratte and Barbara Van Ausdall, Mascoutah, IL

### People with Life Concerns

- Keep Kyle Nuetzel (24) in your prayers as he recovers from a serious car accident. Kyle is the son of Kathy Nuetzel, the fiancée of Rev. Patrick Poole. Rev. Poole is the pastor at Maeystown St. John UCC. Kyle and his mom live in the St. Charles area.

- 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.



Rev. Toni DiPina sharing the keynote message.

"It feels surreal to return to the very spot where I was abandoned to bless the work that God has ordained for his beautiful children, who will be blessed by the work of this ministry," said Rev. DiPina. "I am so honored to be given the chance to bless the spot where my life changed forever." Rev. DiPina's story was a continued source of inspiration throughout the construction of the Deaconess Center.

"Due North of the St. Louis City Family Courts and Juvenile Justice Center, Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being is situated as a physical critique of the ways the region has chosen to engage challenges related to children and youth,"



Children leading those gathered in a blessing of the Deaconess Center.

said Rev. Wilson. "The Center encourages collaborative, systems-focused civic engagement for youth flourishing over isolated, program-oriented interventions or punitive approaches."



Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer bringing greetings from UCC.

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, general minister and president of the United Church of Christ, brought greetings from the UCC and reflections on the church's 'Three Great Loves' - one of which, is the Love of Children.

"The United Church of Christ has declared that our vision is to build a just world for all," said Rev. Dorhauer. "We have called ourselves into mission to embody and incarnate those commitments through the Three Great Loves - Love of Neighbor, Love of Creation and Love of Children-in partnership with those well beyond the household of the United Church of Christ."

community action tank. Deaconess'



Consecration Service

Established by Deaconess Foundation, Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being is a mission is to build power to advance child well-being in the St. Louis region by strengthening alliances for child-friendly public policy, increasing citizen contact with policy makers, positioning youth and organizers to move systems and engaging faith communities in child advocacy.

Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being will house offices for Deaconess Foundation, Vision for Children at Risk and Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses). The \$8.8 million, 21,000 square foot facility is expected to

host more than 6,000 child advocates, civic leaders and community organizers per year in more than 350 gatherings focused on children's policy. Meeting space will be granted at no cost to groups and convenings focused on shifting public policy for children aligned with Deaconess' vision and values.



Rev. Shana Johnson brought greetings from Illinois South Conference.

### 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.



## Why International Staff?

Because they're great! Each summer, DuBois Center recruits 4-6 international staff members, both through recruiting agencies and from Eden Seminary. Recently, they've journeyed from Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Poland, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. With accents that make them easily approachable and stories about life in their home countries, it's easy to see why our international staffers are much beloved by campers and American staff alike. We appreciate the perspectives they bring, the games and songs they teach us, and the unique opportunities they provide just by spending the summer at DuBois Center. The cultural exchange they facilitate is not just educational - it can also be very entertaining: a favorite game is to check for reactions to breakfast staples like coffee cake or biscuits and gravy!



## SERVICE SATURDAY - March 24

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 by Monday, March 19, at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202. If you can't make it out to the March date, there will be another Service Saturday on April 21 - or call to set up a different day for your church group!



## Summer Job Opportunities!

Looking for a summer job that's fulfilling as well as resume-building? Love being outdoors and working with kids? DuBois Center is hiring energetic, caring, fun and safety-focused individuals for our summer staff. Out of our pool of Counselor/Activity Specialists, we try and hire at least 7-8 who are also lifeguards. Our waterfront program is based on the idea that the best fun is also safe, and our staff works hard to ensure that environment. Lifeguarding classes include the required First Aid and CPR training, and lifeguards are paid a little extra over the course of the summer to recoup the cost of the course. For more information, check out our [website](#) page or this [flyer](#) or email [shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org).

## WRANGLE & RIDE

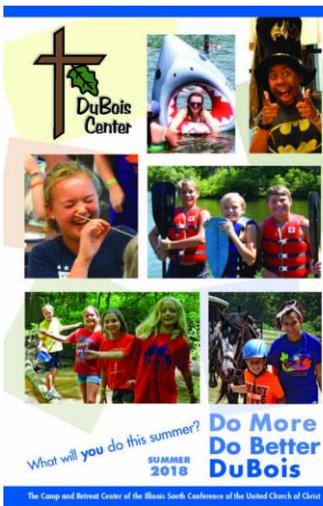
### Saturday, April 21

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



## Brochures are Coming!

It's that time of year again - DuBois Center's summer camp brochures are HOT off the presses and will be finding their way to your mailboxes and churches soon! If you don't receive a brochure and would like one, please contact the office at 618-787-2202 or [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) to be added to the mailing list, or check out the digital version on our [website](#).



**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



**Marine United Church of Christ will host an evening of friendly competition with Hoyleton Youth & Family Services as the winner! The church is set to host the 17th annual Trivia Night benefiting Hoyleton Youth & Family Services on Sat, April 28.** Join the hosts for challenging trivia, door prizes and more. The cost is \$12 per person, with up to 8 players to a table. The church is located at the intersection of Center Street and Hwy 143 in Marine. Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place winning teams. Contact the

church at 618-887-4465 to reserve a table for trivia or click [here](#).

**St. John's Community Care and the Alzheimers Association will offer Cardinals Reminiscence League on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:30 am - 12 pm at University Pointe II Center in Edwardsville.**



The Cardinals Reminiscence League is open to people with memory loss who would like to share memories about the Cardinals baseball team, learn about the team's history, and support the current team. New fans and those who would like to socialize and learn more are welcome. Session dates are April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20 and October 18. All sessions are free. Call 618-656-7090 to learn more and reserve your seat.

**A tisket, a tasket, come bid on a basket for St. John's Community Care!**

Together with Ravanelli's Restaurant in Collinsville, St. John's Community Care is running a "Themed Basket" silent auction to raise money. Baskets are being created and donated by members of the community, including the board members of the St. John's Community Care. The baskets will be on display at Ravanelli's Restaurant in Collinsville the entire month of March, where you can bid on your favorites. The baskets are varied in theme and value. St. John's Community Care invites people to stop by Ravanelli's for lunch or dinner during the month of March and bid on a basket! For those interested in making a donation or hosting a fundraiser for the program or if you would like information about our services, call St. John's Community Care at 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.

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

**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).

**Illinois South Conference Pastors & Spouses Fellowship**

**As the weather shows increasing signs of spring, the Pastors/Spouses Fellowship will gather for lunch and informal sharing on Thurs, March 22 at 11:30 am at the Red Apple Restaurant in Maryville.** This is a week before Holy Week, so we hope many folks can come to reconnect with each other. RSVP to Herb & Bennie Schafale by Monday evening, March 19.

**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, 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](mailto:bbray@evucc.org). First come, first served.

### 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.

**Maudy Thursday Worship Service on March 29 at 7:30 pm in Dupo Christ UCC will be The Last Supper Tableau, an inspirational hour in the Upper Room where you will hear the disciples' testimony of the Master.** All are welcome.

**Dupo Christ UCC will hold an All You Can Eat Chicken & Dumpling Dinner on Sun, April 8 from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm.** Dinner includes chicken, dumplings, green beans, carrots, cole slaw, bread and dessert. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 12 \$4; Children under 5 Free. Carry outs available. Call 618-286-4211.

### 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

**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.

**Brighton St. John's UCC will hold a Fish Fry every Friday from March 9 - 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

**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, mashed potatoes and gravy, 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. Phone in your order to 618-667-6535 and it will be delivered to your car.

### Region 5

**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 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.

**Lenzburg St Peter UCC will host its Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, Sunday School Craft and Bake Sale on March 10 from 6 am to noon.** Whole hog sausage, pancakes made from scratch, fresh meat. Handicap accessible. Carry outs available 618-475-2557.

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