

Weekly Connection

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

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Two members of the St. John UCC in Fairview Heights recognized a need and created a solution. Barb Whittaker and Janice Petroff built a water-proof "Little Library" to be placed on a pole by the street in front of the church. Neighborhood children will always have books available to read. The idea is to bring a book and take a book. However, if the child has no books to bring, they are welcome to take one. Barb Whittaker is Chair of Communion Preparation and Janice Petroff is a member of the Church Council. We thank the ladies for their dedication to serve others.



Important Links

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[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

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[Neighborhood Houses](#)

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

[St. Paul's Home](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

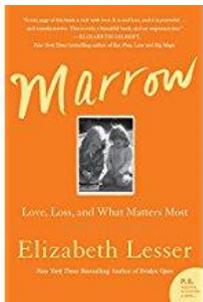
[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

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A Great Big Shout Out to Rev. Ivan Horn

Thanks to Rev. Ivan Horn for taking so many wonderful photos during Day of Discipleship. Ivan is the Pastor at Hecker Friedens UCC, the ISC Secretary, and has volunteered for many Teams in UCC throughout the years. But now, we thank him for being such a good photographer. Pat Morris (seated on the right) is a member of Smithton St. John's UCC and served as chair of the Hunger/Food Action Committee for many years and as ISC General Synod Delegate. To see all of the Day of Discipleship photos, go to our [website](#).



Words Can Be Akin to Killing

This morning on my way into the office, I finished *Marrow* by Elizabeth Lesser, a powerful book that I have been listening to for the last couple of weeks. When I pulled into the parking lot of the Conference office, I sat in the car for a while soaking in the profound lessons of this visceral memoir of two sisters who find deep courage and healing through a life and death experience of a bone marrow transplant. Elizabeth, the author, is the donor and her younger sister Maggie is the recipient needing the transplant.

When Elizabeth learns she is the perfect match, she not only says yes to the transplant, but also yes to a process she calls a "soul marrow" transplant. The process consists of the sisters' deep commitment to dig into their complex family history, their own complicated relationship as sisters, and come to a place of forgiveness and the reclaiming of unconditional love and grace. As is often the case with loved ones, especially siblings, there are layers of misunderstandings and misconceived assumptions that are burying their ability to be completely honest, generous and authentic with each other and with themselves.

As they embark on the intentional work of digging through the ancient artifacts of their childhood, youth and young adult life, they discover that much of the residual pain and unfinished business in their relationship comes down to words that were carelessly used and abused in their relationship. Words that had the power to hurt and, in some cases as they discovered together, there had been words that destroyed important parts of themselves.

As I reflected on their story, I was reminded on the incredible power of our words to hurt or heal. In the *Talmud*, the rabbis warn readers that words can be akin to murder, (See Tractate: Arachin 15b) for some spoken words can cause irrevocable damage. The damage that can be done by words is underscored in a Hasidic tale about a man who went through his community badmouthing and slandering his rabbi.

Pray for...

Prayer list for March 18 - 24 Churches & Pastors

- Biddleborn Trinity UCC,
Pastor Nancy (Scott) Shubert
- Brighton St. John's UCC,
Rev. Laurie Crelly

One day, feeling remorseful because word had gotten back to the rabbi about the man's behavior, the man went to the rabbi and confessed what he had been saying. The man begged the rabbi for forgiveness and said he was willing to do penance. The rabbi told the man he had one request before he could offer forgiveness. The rabbi asked the man to take several feather pillows out into an open space, to cut them open, and watch how the feathers scatter to the winds.

The man honored the rabbi's request. Yet, upon returning to the rabbi, the man discovered the rabbi had another request of him before the rabbi could offer forgiveness. The rabbi simply said, "Now go and gather all the feathers."

Of course, the man protested, "But that is impossible."

In response the rabbi said, "Yes, you are correct it is impossible. And though you may sincerely regret the evil you have done and truly desire to correct it, it is as impossible to repair the damage done by your words as it will be to recover the feathers."

In her memoir, Lesser courageously names that sometimes there is irrevocable damage that is done by words spoken out of misunderstandings, frustrations, assumptions, fear and anger. And while there is always enough room for the offering and receiving of forgiveness and grace, the healing does not mean the scars or pain will suddenly disappear.

What a powerful reminder for us that our words matter.

May we use them cautiously and carefully.

May we choose our words to build up rather than to tear down and destroy.

And when we cannot speak the truth in love, may we remain silent until we can.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 25

Worshiping at St. Paul UCC Belleville

March 29

Worshiping and officiating at communion at the Maundy Thursday service at St. Paul UCC Belleville

April 8

Preaching at Immanuel UCC, Hamel

April 15

Worshiping at St. John UCC, Fairview Heights for Rev. Rosemary Captain's Installation

April 22

Preaching at Godfrey Evangelical UCC

Preaching at Zion UCC, Central City for Rev. Nancy Pebbles' Installation

April 29

Worshiping at Zion UCC, Waterloo for Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee's Farewell Service

If I have not worshiped at your church yet, I would love an invitation! 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.

Retired Pastor

- Revs. Pamela Smith and Earl Menchhofer, Conyers, GA

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.

Join St. John UCC in Fairview Heights for
the installation of

Reverend Rosemary Captain

April 15, 2018

3 pm

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10207 LINCOLN TRAIL

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

Pastors who wish to participate are asked to robe with a red stole and arrive 1/2 hour prior to the service.





Join Zion UCC in Central City for
the installation of
Reverend Nancy C.L. Peebles
April 22, 2018
3 pm

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
101 N BROADWAY
CENTRAL CITY, ILLINOIS

Please RSVP to:
618-532-1751 or zionuccil@att.net
Following the service of worship
all are invited to a Celebration Tea.

Pastors who wish to participate are asked to robe with a red stole and arrive 1/2 hour prior to the service.



The Great Lakes Regional Youth Event (GLRYE) is scheduled for July 5 - 8, 2018 at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois. The theme this year is: *A Just World for All: Your Voice Matters!*

Come ponder, pray, and play guided by the 3 Great Loves: neighbor, children, and creation in the UCC's mission statement: *United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*

GLRYE is open to all youth grades 6 - 12 (youth who have finished 6th grade through those who have just finished 12th grade). **Early Bird registration per person for double occupancy in sleeping room is \$300 through May 1. Regular Registration after May 1 through June 1 is \$325 per person for double occupancy in the sleeping room. Late registration from June 2 through June 15 is \$350 per person for double occupancy.** If your group cannot pay by credit card, contact Lisa Hart at glrye18reg@gmail.com for assistance. The registration fees listed include lodging, event t-shirt and meals. Additional required paperwork will be emailed out after receiving confirmation email. Please note: Youth Group Leaders and Youth Group Chaperones must be 22 years old or older.

Rev. R.J. Morgan, Pastor at Zoar UCC New Hanover, has agreed to be the group coordinator. There has been some discussion about riding the train to Chicago rather than drive or take a bus. The fee looks like about \$30 one way from St. Louis. However, churches can make their own travel arrangements to get to Elmhurst College. If your church has interest in attending RYE, please let us know and tell us who your contact person will be. Then watch for further emails from the ISC office and/or Rev. R.J. Morgan for more details.

Click [here](#) to like the GLRYE Facebook page and keep updated on plans, and click [here](#) to register youth from your church.

Day of Discipleship in Review

Thanks to all of the presenters: Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Roger Harris, Lee-Alison Wilson, Kent Lytle, Rev. Katie Jo Bielke, Dana Callahan, Sandy Ritter, Carol Meek, Rev. Laurie Creilly, Missy Loyet, Rev. Carol Shanks, Margie Lindhorst, Pastor Norma Patterson, Milton Jones, Pastor Cory Hartz & members of Belleville Trinity UCC, Rev. Dr. Donna Pupillo-Smith, Rev. Earl Crecelius, Jan Aerie, and Dr. Jill Baker. We couldn't have done it without you!





The St. Louis area AUCE (Association of United Church Educators) is planning the **Better Together: Children and Family Ministry Resource Fair** on Sat, April 7 from 8:45 am - 1 pm at Eden Seminary Main Building, 475 E Lockwood Ave, St. Louis. There is no cost to attend. You can look forward to resource samples, book tables (sharing personal resources so you can look before you buy), workshops including OWL, LOGOS, Godly Play, and a Mult-Generational Faith Formation Roundtable. The morning will conclude with a "sample" of Messy Church model of ministry! Click [here](#) for a flyer.



Earth Day 2018 is Sunday, April 22, making it an excellent opportunity to center worship services & activities around: Environmental Awareness - Stewardship - Justice - and Climate Change.

Earth Day is now a global event each year, and we believe that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.

It is a day of political action and civic participation. People march, sign petitions, meet with their elected officials, plant trees, clean up their towns and roads. Corporations and governments use it to make pledges and announce sustainability measures. Faith leaders, including Pope Francis, connect Earth Day with protecting God's greatest creations, humans, biodiversity and the planet that we all live on.

Earth Day Network, the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, today announced that Earth Day 2018 will focus on mobilizing the world to End Plastic Pollution, including creating support for a global effort to eliminate single-use plastics along with global regulation for the disposal of plastics. EDN will educate millions of people about the health and other risks associated with the use and disposal of plastics, including pollution of our oceans, water, and wildlife, and about the growing body of evidence that decomposing plastics are creating serious global problems. For more information, click [here](#).

Earth Hour is a global WWF (formerly known as World Wildlife Fund) climate change initiative. It is an event that aims to create awareness of people taking responsibility towards a sustainable future by turning the lights off around the world from 8:30-9:30 pm in each time zone. Usually it is the last Saturday in March, but this year it will be March 24th - the 4th Saturday of March 2018. Some people enjoy Earth Hour with a candle-lit dinner or a candle-lit bath, while others host large events or parties, either in darkness or with candles, to celebrate Earth Hour.



Businesses and government organizations, as well as community and political leaders also take part in Earth Hour. It's about giving people a voice on the planet's future and working together to create a sustainable low carbon future for planet earth. The World Wildlife Fund - WWF - sponsors and promotes Earth Hour each year. For more information, click [here](#).



DuBois Center News

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

BUNCO RECAP

THANKS to everyone who turned out for a great evening of family fun on February 24. It truly was a family affair. In fact, one young man - about 7 years old with a hot winning streak - was there with his parents and sister from Zion UCC in Marion and his grandparents and aunt from Maestown. Thanks to Region 2 for sponsoring the event, St. Paul UCC - Columbia for hosting, and all the pastors who supported it. They were there in force - playing, facilitating and MCing. Thanks to the church members and friends who organized and set-up, those who made and donated gift baskets, prizes and snacks, and those who came and played and donated food items. Between admission fees, the silent auction, a 50-50 drawing and other donations a total of \$1,487 was raised for DuBois Center and 323 food items were collected! The group with the most "players" in attendance won the honor of selecting the recipients of the collection. Uni-Pres Kindercottage received 285 of the items; the emergency pantry at St. Paul UCC received 38 items that were less appropriate for Kindercottage.





MEET our SUMMER STAFF!

Often times, due to the visa application process, international staff are hired long before our local summer staff. This week, we would like to introduce another of our 2018 team members from overseas... Alice McKinnon from Carlton, Australia. Alice is very excited to be joining us as a Counselor/Activity Specialist and is looking forward to learning more about our country and culture. She is passionate about being outdoors, staying fit and a variety of land and water sports. Alice camps, plays netball and volleyball, studies dance - ballet, jazz and contemporary, bikes and swims. She has experience working with children and peers in a variety of capacities - babysitter, coach, mentor and teacher assistant. One of her references wrote, "Alice is an enthusiastic dynamic young woman. She lights up a room with her happy disposition." She attended Catholic schools growing up and embraces and practices



the "mercy values" she was taught. She believes that faith helps you to be "the very best version of you." Alice considers herself very lucky to have traveled a fair amount with her family. Their adventures include Bali, Thailand, Fiji, Tasmania, the United States and Canada. She has also traveled around coastal and inland Australia. Did you know that Australia is about the same size as the continental USA, but with a population closer to that of Texas? Favorite foods? Fresh fruit "and of course chocolate." She absolutely adores dogs and loves watching American TV series. Welcome to the team, Alice!



Lenten Workday - March 24 Don't Miss It!

Looking for a meaningful Lenten discipline? How about pitching in with family and friends and making a difference at DuBois Center? Stretch your muscles, get a little dirty and help spruce up the grounds. 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. Lunch is provided. Check out this [flyer](#) for more information. **RSVP** to DuBois Center by Monday, March 19, at 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 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 618-787-2202 or shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org. Application packets are available [online](#) or can be sent by email or mail.



BLOCK PARTY! Sunday, May 6

We're having a Block Party in the Rustic Village and your middle and high school youth groups are invited! Join DuBois Center staff and volunteers for an afternoon of fun, food, games, contests and music. One of the best parts

- IT'S FREE. We'll roast hot dogs and make s'mores, meet some of the horses, and explore the Rustic Village. Whether you are a DuBois Center camper or not, you're invited! Load up right after church, grab some lunch and head to camp. We'll be on the move from 1-4:30 pm, but arrive when you can. Youth must be accompanied by



WHY CHURCH CAMP?

Because church camp is joyful fun! It is a sacred place. It is intensely relational, and positive role models abound! Though an integral part of many congregations' year-round faith formation efforts, church camp is different from Vacation Bible School or Sunday School. Campers and leaders live, work, play and worship together from early morning until late into the evening. They grow together through shared experiences in God's amazing creation



adult chaperones or parents. RSVP by Monday, April 30 - we need to stock the coolers and send you permission forms. For more information or to RSVP, check out this [flyer](#) or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

and form an intentional community. They hear our faith stories in new places and new ways, and find opportunities to share their own. The activities are fun, challenging and filled with opportunities to grow as part of a Christian community. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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 or register [online](#). 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.



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.

Family Caregiver Support Group- Collinsville. Wed, March 14, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. This support group is intended for family caregivers caring for loved ones with any type of disability. A light complimentary dinner is provided. Sessions are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Complimentary care for loved ones is available with a reservation. Call 618-344-5008.

Family Caregiver Support Group - Edwardsville. Wed, March 21, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. This support group is intended for family caregivers caring for loved ones with any type of disability. Sessions are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month. For more information call 618-656-7090.

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...

***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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Maundy 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 - the Main Event - on the evening of April 7. Lots of great items to bid on!! Proceeds benefit their Homework, Help and Hoops after-school 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 or St. John's Community Care at 618-407-0343.

Region 4

Brighton St. John's UCC will hold a Fish Fry every Friday from March 16 - 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.

St. John UCC in Wood River will have its annual Lenten Fish Fry-days March 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

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.

Region 8

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

St. Paul UCC, Lebanon will hold its 23rd Annual Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 18 from 11 am - 3 pm. All you can eat. Adults \$10; Children (2-10) \$5. Carry outs available. Quilt Raffle.

Zion UCC in New Baden will host a drive-thru fish fry on Fri, March 16 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Cat fish or cod, Mac n cheese, fries or chips, and dessert. Cost \$8. (Region 8)

Region 9

St. John UCC in Fairview Heights will hold its Pancake Breakfast on Sun, March 25 from 8:30 am - 9:30 am. All-you-can-eat pancakes, bacon, fruit salad, and drinks. A \$5 free-will offering is appreciated, but any contribution is welcome.