

Weekly Connection

For the Week of June 3 - June 9, 2018
 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

The youth group of Evangelical UCC in Godfrey and their youth director, Tim Sandifer, visited Uni-Pres Kindercottage on Sat, April 28 to fulfill their service project for 30 Hour Famine for World Hunger. As part of the project, the youth had not eaten since 6 pm on Friday and would not eat until 6 pm on Saturday. The youth cleaned rooms, emptied trash, shampooed carpets and played with the three young children who came to Kindercottage that day to allow their parents a day out without children. The Evangelical UCC youth group brought gifts of food to Kindercottage from its wish list, even though they were not able to eat. And they brought baby supplies, such as bottle washers, bottles, formula and food. The youth said that they enjoyed their time and made plans to return this summer.



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](#)



Join St. Paul UCC in Belleville on June 10 at 9 am for the Celebration of Ministry in honor of the 55th Anniversary of Pastor Gus Kuether's ordination and the blessings of the church's ministries. They will introduce the Pastor Gus Kuether Leadership Development Fund to be used to encourage members of the congregation to take classes, seminars, and workshops which will enhance the mission and ministries of St. Paul UCC in Belleville. To those wanting to honor Pastor Kuether with a donation to the fund, make checks to St. Paul UCC with a notation that it go to that fund.

UCC Mourns Marilyn Breitling, UCC's First Woman National Executive

The United Church of Christ lost a strong leader and role model with the death of Marilyn Breitling on Tuesday, May 22. She was 84.

Breitling led the UCC around women's issues in the 1970's and 1980's. In 1979, she became the first Executive Director of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society (CCW). When the office was given instrumentality status-the equivalent of a covenanted ministry-by General Synod in 1987, Breitling became the first woman to lead the church on a national level. Read [more](#).



SHANA'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 3

Preaching at Zion UCC in Addieville and St. John's UCC in Johannesburg in honor of Rev. Bill Groennert's 50th anniversary of ordination.

June 10

Preaching at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon to celebrate Rev. Dr. Donald Wagner's 25th anniversary as Pastor and Teacher of St. Paul UCC and 30th anniversary of ordination.

THIS IS YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

To invite Rev. Shana Johnson to your church for a particular event, season in the life of the church, or a special occasion, please reach out to her via email at sjohnson@iscucc.org or by phone at 618-654-2125 (office phone) or 618-882-8247.

Job Opportunities

St. John UCC in Granite City is currently seeking to fill a part time position of

Pray for...

Prayer list for
June 3-9, 2018

Churches & Pastors

- Evansville St. John UCC
- Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Rev. Rosemary Captain

Church Office Clerical Secretary. This part-time position requires three six-hour days for a total of 18 hours per week. The pay range for this position is between \$12 and \$13 per hour. Send resume to stjohnuccc2901gc@yahoo.com or mail to St. John UCC 2901 Nameoki Rd Granite City ill 62040. No phone calls accepted. Click [here](#) for a list of job duties and skill requirements.

Cemetery Associate needed for Granite City St. John UCC Cemetery. Requirements include high school diploma or GED certificate, valid driver's license, insurance, violation-free for 24 months, good physical condition, communication skills, work with outside contractors, computer skills, use of Smart Phone, more. Send resume to stjohnucccemetary@gmail.com or mail to St. John UCC, 2901 Nameoki Rd, Granite City, IL 62040. No phone calls accepted. Click [here](#) for a complete list of job duties and skill requirements.

Trinity UCC in Belleville is accepting applications for the part-time position of **Administrative Assistant.** The candidate must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher. The candidate must have strong spelling and grammar skills, strong communication, organizational and interpersonal skills, and the ability to work independently, as well as with direct supervision. A valid driver's license is required. [Application](#), resume and at least three professional references should be sent to trinityucchr@gmail.com. A background check will be required before hire. Applications for this position will be accepted until filled.



**"We've always done it that way!"
But that way may not be the BEST way for
new experiences.**

Explorers Lewis and Clark had to adapt. What makes us think that we/the church does not need to adapt to new experiences as well? While Lewis and Clark had prepared to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, instead they found themselves in the Rocky Mountains, carrying canoes. You, too, may feel that you are

leading in experiences that preparation has not been an advantage. You may even feel that your training holds you back more often than it carries you along.

Drawing from his extensive experience as a pastor and consultant, Tod Bolsinger brings decades of expertise in guiding churches and organizations through uncharted territory. He offers a combination of illuminating insights and practical tools to help you re-imagine what effective leadership looks like in our rapidly changing world. If you're going to scale the mountains of ministry, you need to leave behind canoes and find new navigational tools. This workshop will set you on the right course to lead with confidence and courage.

Plan to attend...

Being Church in Uncharted Territory

Friday, October 26, 2018 at St. John Evangelical UCC - Collinsville

2 pm - 6 pm. Click [here](#) for a bulletin insert to share with your congregations. Click [here](#) for a flyer and registration form to post in your church and share with your congregations. Click [here](#) to register online.

Great Lakes Regional Youth Event (GLYRE) Scholarships Available!!

The President's Office at Elmhurst College has offered One Lucky Church a need-based scholarship equivalent to 2 full registrations (\$650.00). To apply, the Church Pastor must send a letter explaining the need to glyre18reg@gmail.com with "Scholarship Request" in the subject line. Letters must be received by the close of business on May 30. All applicants will be put into a pool and randomly chosen. Churches will be notified by 11:59 pm on May 30. Remember registration rates go up to \$350/person on June 2.



Retired Pastor

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

People with Life Concerns

- Keep Kyle Nuetzel (24) in your prayers as he continues rehabilitation in Nebraska after 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.

- Pray for Pastor Cherie (Michael) Stolze as she deals with pain from an accident. Pastor Stolze is the pastor for St. Peter's UCC Stone Church and St. Paul UCC in Okawville. Cards may be sent to her at 12023 Lake Meade Dr, St. Louis, MO 63146.

- Pray for Rich (Joyce) Gusewelle as he deals with some health issues. Rich and Joyce are members of St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville and Joyce is a member of the ISC Conference Gatherings Team. Cards may be sent to 5238 N State Rt 157, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

- Pray for Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer as he deals with some health issues. Rev. Causer is the pastor of Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC. Cards may be sent to him at 11315 North Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

Registration for the 4th Annual Rainbow Camp Is Open!

Rainbow Camp is a day filled with activities and fun, where everyone is recognized as a child of God. Come play in the water, take aim with archery, try your hand at crafts, or just take in the outdoors from horseback or pontoon. We have activities for all ages. We will gather on Sat, Aug 18 from 9 am to 7 pm, at DuBois Center. Rainbow Camp is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & queer singles, couples and families. Straight allies are welcome too. If there are at least 15 people interested, we can stay Friday night as a group at Hickory Lodge. If you want to register for just the day, select Rainbow Camp. If you want to stay Friday night and attend camp the next day, select Rainbow Camp Overnight. Register now to get the early bird rates. See this [flyer](#) for more details. Click [here](#) if you're ready to register. Got questions? Contact ISC Pride at iscpride@iscucc.org.



MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome David Nirushikan Velupillai to our 2018 summer staff team! David was born in Batticaloa, [Sri Lanka](#). Last fall he traveled to the states to attend Eden Theological Seminary. This summer he will be serving as a Counselor/Activity Specialist. David grew up in a well-respected Christian family. When younger, he participated in a variety of children's programs sponsored by the church. In his youth, he joined the Scouts and participated in camps in different parts of the country. He enjoyed all these experiences, especially the campfires! While in seminary in Jaffna, he was involved in a number of outdoor activities, but especially enjoyed volleyball and cricket. David has worked with children in

a variety of settings. After seminary, he was the director of his church's after-school program. In this role, he was able to provide young people with educational and cultural experiences that might not otherwise have been accessible to them. David wrote, "As a pastor, I would say that my goal is creating the community for the transformed community of the society." While in the USA, he would like to experience the culture of Americans, and see how we are involved in the ministry of children for a transformed community. David's favorite foods are fried rice and spicy beef or chicken curry. He is hoping to have the opportunity to cook a couple of his favorite dishes for our summer staff sometime during the season. He is also looking forward to working with an international team. Welcome David! We can't wait to learn more about you and your island home.



TAKE the PLUNGE

Register Today!

Summer vacation is a great time to get outside, unplug and make new friends face-to-face. Give your kids the gift of joyful, low-tech, faith-filled fun this summer! 2018 Summer Adventures at DuBois Center are filling quickly - some already have waiting lists! However, there are still lots of great options available, just don't wait too long. Pick up a brochure in your church office, click [here](#) to view the online version or contact DuBois Center to have one mailed to you - dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

On Wednesday, May 30, our summer camp program staff officially arrive for nine days of intensive training covering topics such as health and safety, faith formation, activity leadership, behavior management and so much more! They are coming from local Illinois South Conference churches and from communities of faith around the world - literally. Please keep the leadership team, program staff and site staff in your thoughts and prayers. They have an awesome task in front of them! We also ask that you keep our international staff, long distance staff and their families close to your heart. These staff members have traveled from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Wales, Virginia, and Washington (state), and will be far

PRAYER

changes things



from their homes for three months or even longer. Thank you!

SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEERS

Consider a week (or even a few days) at DuBois Center and join our Summer Camp 2018 team! Wanted: fun, engaging, and caring volunteers to serve as nurses, cabin counselors, activity specialists and barn helpers. Minimum age is 18 for most positions; young adults, and older adults are welcome. Give of your time and talent, make a difference, and gain a wonderful sense of satisfaction! For more information, go to the volunteer [page](#) of our web site or contact Shirley at shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



PALLETS - Your Trash, Our Treasure

We've got HAY! After a very dry end to the 2017 growing season, our supply was running low. Now, in preparation for heavy summer rains, additional sturdy wooden pallets on which to set the bales are needed. Storing hay off the ground keeps it out of the mud. The drier the bales remain, the more able we are to reduce the growth of mold. Mold contributes to large amounts of waste. In addition, moldy hay is not healthy for our horses. Keeping the hay drier also helps to retain its nutritional content throughout the year. Approximately 30 additional new or gently used sturdy pallets are needed. If you have or can find any that meet these specs, contact Scott Kuether at sekuether21@gmail.com.



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



The Hoyleton Youth & Family Services 2018 Golf Classic will be held on Fri, July 13 beginning at 11:30 am at the Tamarack Golf Course, 800 Tamarack Ln, Shiloh, IL. Shotgun start begins at 12:30 pm. It is a 4-person scramble with 3 flights. Prizes awarded. Longest-drive, closest-to-the-pin. Mulligans and poker run available. Entry fee: \$90/person (\$95/person after June 15) or \$360/team of 4.

Lunch and dinner provided. 18 holes with cart. Skins game. Click [here](#) to register or call 618-688-4770. Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your congregation.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...



Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches (& parents & teens & bosses & teachers & workers & committee members & pastors & everybody else) will be held on Sat, June 23 from 9 am - 3:30 pm at St. Paul UCC in Waterloo. Presented by Rev. Mike Southcombe, ISC Conflict Mediation Team. Study and workshop resources from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Cost includes workshop materials and lunch. \$20/person or \$30/couple (shared workbook). Register by calling 618-939-7123 or email linda@stpaulonline.org.

It's time to plan for the 2018 Confirmation Retreat on September 14-15, 2018 at DuBois Center. It starts at 6:30 on Friday evening and ends at 8:00 on Saturday evening. The theme for this year's retreat is **"Who is Jesus' Neighbor?"**. Our facilitator, Rev. John Holst-Pastor at Zion UCC in Marion, will work with the youth and chaperones to consider one of the themes, Love of Neighbor, which is one component of the UCC's "3 Great Loves" campaign. The retreat will offer time to delve into the question of Who is Jesus' Neighbor? through fun & interactive small group conversations, games, and fellowship. The retreat is designed as a supplement to your church's confirmation program and it offers a unique opportunity for confirmation classes from across the Conference to bond within and between their groups. If this sounds of interest to your confirmands/leaders, then please make sure to include this retreat in your upcoming confirmation paperwork. Please note that we need space reservations by **August 13** and the registration paperwork by **August 31**. So, use your summer months to encourage confirmands to join you on this retreat. Click [here](#) for the complete packet of information and registration forms.



Region 3

The Evening Circle from St John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will be having their annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on Thurs, June 21 at 11:30 am in Faith Hall. The event features a variety of homemade salads made by our ladies plus a display of summer clothes from Dillard's using our own models. The \$12-ticket may be purchased through Judy Brickey (618-345-4889) or through Amy at the office (618-344-2526). Tickets will not be sold at the door that day. Any questions may be directed to Vicki Donovan at 618-344-6809.

Edwardsville Eden Church presents 5K Character Fun Run/Walk on June 2 at 9 am at the Edwardsville Township Park. Join the fun and dress up as your favorite character. Proceeds to support the Eden Youth Mission trip to Africa and African Vision of Hope. Music, snacks, family activities, and photo booth. Click [here](#) for more info.

Region 8

Celebration the ministry of Rev. Dr. Don Wagner on Sun, June 10 at the St. Paul UCC in Lebanon with worship beginning at 10 am, followed by a church picnic. Rev. Wagner is celebrating the anniversary of his 25th year serving St. Paul UCC in Lebanon and his 30th anniversary of ordination. Meat, beverages and desserts will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish to add to the menu. In lieu of any personal gifts, direct donations to DuBois Center. Make

Region 9

Concordia UCC in Belleville will host a Chicken Dinner and Strawberry Festival on Sun, June 3 from 11 am - 3 pm. Fried Chicken (fried in peanut oil) with all the 'fixins'. Dine-in or Carry-out. Quilt Raffle Chances: \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5. Bake Sale. Adults \$11; Children 6-12 years \$5.50; Children 5 and under Free. Contact 618-476-3377.

Christ UCC in Belleville presents Tim Lovelace: A Humor with a Purpose on Fri, June 8. Doors open at 6 pm. Beans & Cornbread Dinner at 6:30 pm. Show starts at 7 pm. Tim presents hilarious comedy and is a GMA Hall of Fame Inductee as well as Instrumentalist of the Year. Donations at the door benefit the TWIGS summer meal program.

The churches of Region 9 will gather together for an Ice Cream Social on Sun, July 29 from 3 pm - 4:30 pm at St. John UCC in Fairview Heights. The B Street Band will be performing at 3 pm followed by the ice cream social at 3:30 in the fellowship hall of the church. A free-will offering will be taken.

On July 1, members of the St. Louis Symphony Brass will be participating as part of a patriotic worship service at O'Fallon UCC. All are invited to attend this annual celebration.

VBS - June

June 11 - 15; 8:30 am - 11 am; Okawville St. Peter's UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

June 18 - 22; 6 pm - 8:30 pm (Dinner served to all members of the family at 5 pm.); Troy Friedens UCC Fellowship Hall; *Rolling River Rampage.*

June 18 - 22; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Belleville Concordia UCC; *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.*

June 18 - 22; 9 am - 12 pm; Maestown St. John UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

June 18 - 22; 9 am - 11:30 am; Marissa Friedens UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

June 24 - 28; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm; Alhambra Salem UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

June 25 - 29; 8:45 am - 12 pm; Mascoutah St. John UCC (in cooperation with St. John, Holy Childhood, and St. Martin of Tours Lutheran Churches); *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.*

June 25 - 29; 9 am - 12 pm; Dupon Christ UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

VBS - July

July 8 - 12; 6 pm - 8 pm; Granite City St. John UCC; *Game On.*

July 9 - 13; 9 am - 12 pm; Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC; *Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity.*

July 9 - 13; 6 pm - 8:20 pm; Red Bud St. Peter UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

July 9 - 13; 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm; Combined VBS for Centralia St. Peter UCC and Central City Zion UCC at 1st United Methodist Church

checks payable to St. Paul UCC, (noting 'Anniversary' on the memo line) or gifts can be sent directly to DuBois Center, 2651 Quarry Rd. DuBois, IL 62831 (indicate your gift is in honor of Rev. Don Wagner). **RSVP by June 3 to 618-537-4991 or** .

Region 9

St. Paul UCC Fine Arts and the St. Paul UCC Music Ministry invites you to attend the Red, White and Blue Concert on Sun, June 3 at 3 pm at St. Paul UCC, 115 W B Street, Belleville. The concert is free. A free-will offering will be taken. A BBQ picnic lunch will be served after the concert in the Activity Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$2 for children. Call 618-233-3303 for tickets or buy them that day.

VBS - June

Mondays in June (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th); 9 am - 11:30 am; Trenton St. John UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

June 4 - 8; 8:30 am - 11:30 am; Valmeyer St. John UCC; *Splash Canyon.*

June 4 - 8; 9 am - 12 pm; Columbia St. Paul UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

June 4 - 8; 9 am - 11:15 am; Highland Evangelical UCC; *Moose on the Loose.*

June 4 - 8; 9 am - 11:30 am; Fieldon UCC; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God.*

June 11 - 15; 9 am - 11:30 am; Staunton St. Paul UCC; *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.*

in Centralia; *Rolling River Rampage.*
July 15 - 19; 6 pm - 8 pm; Stone Church St. Peter's UCC & Plum Hill St. John's UCC are working together at Stone Church St. Peter's UCC; *Embracing the Fruits of the Spirit Around the World.*

July 16 - 20; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; O'Fallon UCC;

July 21; 9 am - 4 pm; Belleville St. Paul UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

July 22 - 25; 5 pm - 8:15 pm; Metropolis Zion UCC (combined with St. Paul Lutheran, St. Rose Catholic, First Christian, and Lutheran Church of the Cross); *Polar Blast.*

July 23 - 27; 9 am - 11:30 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

July 29 - August 2; 6 pm - 9 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC; *Rolling River Rampage.*

July 30 - August 3; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm; New Athens St. John UCC, *Rolling River Rampage.*