

Weekly Connection

For the Week of June 10 - June 16, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



LIMITING BELIEFS

This morning I was listening to the podcast "Happier" with Gretchen Rubin. The episode featured Gretchen (author best known for her book, *The Happiness Project*) talking to her sister Elizabeth Craft (a movie/television writer and producer) about limiting beliefs. A limiting belief is a belief or thought that is so deeply ingrained in us that it constrains us in some way.

Just by believing them, we do not think, do or say things that they inhibit. A limiting belief is often about ourselves, how we see ourselves, or how we self-identify. Yet, limiting beliefs can also be about other people and the world in general. The key is they LIMIT us from seeing potential, believing something is possible, and trusting there can be more than what we are experiencing right now.

Sometimes it is hard to recognize limiting beliefs. However, if we analyze them and pull the threads of logic about these beliefs, we can begin to see the faulty thinking behind them.

I remember distinctly a time when I became aware of a limiting belief that could limit my effectiveness as a leader. I was serving in my first church, sitting in my first finance meeting. That evening, we were talking about our investments. Suddenly, I felt myself break out in a cold sweat. Words were coming out of people's mouths that I did not understand. Hard words, not like the hard words I had learned, such as Christology, epistemology, hermeneutics, or even infralapsarianism.

The words being used in this meeting were not Hebrew, Greek, or Latin words. They were not words that I had encountered in any of my seminary classes. These were words like preferred stocks, equity funds, asset allocation and index funds. Had I missed these courses? Was I quizzed on them in my orals? As the conversation continued around me, my mind spun out of control. Then the dreaded question came. The only one I was not prepared for, "Pastor, what do you think?" Honestly, I have no idea what I said, but I do remember my deep relief when the meeting was over.

For the next week or so, that meeting was on a repeating loop in my mind, and the occupying thought I had was, "I am never going to understand church finances." THIS was a limiting belief. After a while, I decided to pull on the thread of the logic behind this limiting belief. Was I incapable of learning something new? Was it impossible for me to find someone who could share this knowledge with me? Had I not learned hard words, hard concepts, or done hard things before? The answer always came to NO. I was simply limiting myself.

I began to pray about it. I prayed that God would direct me to someone who might be helpful in my exploration and understanding of these new concepts. As it happened (not by chance, of course), I was at a community meeting and met an interesting woman who was the president of a local bank. In the course of the conversation, I told her about the church finance meeting and how lost I had felt. I asked her if she would be willing, if I would pay her for the sessions, tutoring me on the basic concepts of investments and finances for not-for-profit organizations. She was happy to do so, and we set up a time to meet the next week. We had several sessions together, and it was one of the best investments I made. It taught me two important lessons: 1) Do not limit yourself by thinking you cannot do something. 2) There is always someone who you can learn from and is willing and often eager to share their knowledge, experience, and insight. All you have to do is ask.

Limiting beliefs do not only exist in our personal life, but also exist in the church. How can we identify them? Usually they start or end in the following ways:

- We do...
- We do not...
- We can't...
- We should...

Important Links

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duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

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[Insurance Board](#)

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[Neighborhood Houses](#)

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

[St. Paul's Home](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

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Pray for...

**Prayer list for
June 10-16, 2018
Churches & Pastors**

- Freeburg St. Paul's UCC,
Rev. Earl (Johanna) Crecelius,
Jr.

We shouldn't...
Others (they) are....
Others (they) will...
This is how _____ works...
We never...
We have always...

Consider the conversations that you have in fellowship/coffee time, in ministry team meetings, in governing body meetings, in congregational meetings, and in the parking lots of your churches. Can you identify some of the limiting beliefs that are revealed in those conversations? How are they or how are they not serving your church and its ministry well? How do they limit not only the corporate thinking and decision making of the church, but also how, more importantly, do they limit the power of God to act and move in your church?

The interesting thing is that we claim to believe the words and message of Jesus, "with humanity this is impossible, but with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26)." But do we really believe ALL things are possible with God? Do we live this belief? Or are we held back by our limiting beliefs?

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

June 17

Worshiping with family at the church her husband serves

June 24

Worshiping at St. Paul UCC, Pickneyville

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.

After thirty-seven years of faithful leadership, Reverend Gary Kniepkamp will retire as head pastor of St. John's UCC in Summerfield and St. Jacob UCC at the beginning of July. In celebration of his ministry, a Liturgy of Farewell will be performed during their regular worship service beginning at 10:15 am on July 8 at St. Jacob UCC. An open house will be hosted on the same day from 1:30 pm until 3 pm. All are welcome to attend and celebrate his ministry.



A PLACE FOR COLLABORATIVE MISSION & SERVICE

A generation ago local members of United Church of Christ (UCC) congregations organized mission groups and volunteered personal time to visit patients, serve as candy strippers and witness to God's healing presence at Deaconess Hospital. In April 2018, Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being opened its doors. It is the first building dedicated to the Deaconess mission in nearly twenty years of our 130-year heritage. Today, Deaconess Foundation invites this generation of church leaders to join them in service to the community's children.

Established by Deaconess Foundation, Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being is a community action tank, located at 1000 North Vandeventer Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63113. Its 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. The Center is home to three child-focused, non-profits and grants free space to efforts shifting systems to serve kids. Partnership between the faith community and child advocates will be critical for Deaconess Center's success.

Deaconess sponsors a network of Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom

- Godfrey Congregational UCC, Pastor Julie Kies

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Michael and Elizabeth Marx, Sr., Owensboro, KY.

People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for the family of Thelma E. Jacobsmeyer as they mourn her death. Thelma was the mother of Lynn (Rev. Allen) Reiter.

Rev. and Mrs. Reiter are members of Hamel Immanuel UCC and both are active on ISC teams and committees. Currently, Lynn is a member of the ISC Personnel Committee. Rev. Reiter is a retired pastor. The complete obituary celebrating Thelma's life can be found at this [link](#). Funeral services were on Sat, June 2 at St. John UCC in Granite City. Memorial donations can be made to St. John UCC or the American Cancer Society. Cards of sympathy and support may be sent to Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter, PO Box 278, Hamel IL 62046.

- 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

Schools® in partnership with St. Louis Public Schools, Webster Groves School District and UCC congregations. The partnership strengthens its child advocacy ministry and engagement with faith partners. This culturally responsive literacy program curbs summer learning loss and closes opportunity gaps, while offering activities at no charge to families and developing the next generation of Servant Leaders.

Serve young Scholars at the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being CDF Freedom Schools site!

Volunteer experiences include:

- Supporting staff with **Enrichment Activities** (Monday-Friday, 1:00-3:00pm)
- Hosting or preparing meals for weekly **Parent Engagement Meetings** (Mondays, 5:30-6:30pm)
- Assisting team members with **Dismissal/After-Care** (Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:00pm)
- Accompanying scholars on **Field Trips** (Fridays, 1:00-3:00pm)

This summer (June 11th - July 27th), individuals and small groups are invited to volunteer for CDF Freedom Schools. **Contact Alexis Tardy at 314-436-8001 or cdffreedomschools@deaconess.org.**

Welcoming child advocates, organizers and families who are building power for children will be critical to the success of Deaconess Center. Its Extravagant Welcome Team is focused on creating a welcoming, accessible, safe and inviting space for all. They believe well-supported volunteers can make this happen. So, they welcome enthusiastic, responsible, and thoughtful volunteers to join in this work.

Extend Extravagant Welcome

Deaconess Center offers a wide variety of long-term and short-term ways to connect and get involved. Opportunities for volunteers of at least 18 years of age include:

- **Greeting child advocates** at our Welcome Desk (Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm)
- **Providing hospitality** for meetings and special events (Episodic; Evenings and Weekends)
- **Setting up and breaking down** meetings and special events

To join the volunteer team, **contact David Nehrt-Flores at 314-356-2533 or davidn@deaconess.org.**

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.

- Keep Bill (Helen) Whicher in your prayers as he deals with some health issues. Bill and Helen are members of Belleville St. Paul UCC and he has been very active with Illinois South Conference throughout the years. Cards may be sent to 1015 E Monroe St, Belleville, IL 62220.



Last September Hurricanes Maria and Irma presented Puerto Rico with its worst natural disaster on record. The deadly storms caused an estimated death toll of 4,645 persons, \$94 billion in damages to homes, businesses and infrastructure, only a fraction of which has been dealt with and/or compensated by the U.S. government.

The hurricanes disrupted water supply, crippled communications systems and littered the island with debris. Eight months later, 20,000 people are still without power.

UCC Disaster Ministries, Week of Compassion/Disciples Volunteering, and Global Ministries are collaborating closely with brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico to aid Global Ministries partners in recovery from the hurricanes and prepare for the coming hurricane season.

Volunteer teams are needed now for work that may include debris removal, cleaning, tarping, sanitation, light carpentry, roofing, and repair work of homes and/or church properties.

Click [here](#) to volunteer with UCC Disaster Ministries

Click [here](#) to volunteer with Week of Compassion/Disciples Volunteering

Why not go now?

That's what members of Grace Congregational UCC in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, say when disaster strikes and there's a need for hands-on recovery help.

Their "go now" spirit has infused 22 mission trips, the most recent to UCC Disaster Ministries' long-term recovery work site in Port Arthur, Texas. Read the entire [article](#).

More UCC Disaster Ministries Updates

May 25 - Apply [today!](#) **UCC Matching Grants for CWS Kits.**

May 24 UCC Disaster Ministries helps **fund Ebola [treatment](#), prevention in DRC.**

May 15 -Three Hawai'i UCC churches live, help, pray in **volcano's [shadow](#).**





**INTERFAITH NETWORK
ON DRONE WARFARE**

The St. Louis Interfaith Conference on Drone Warfare will be held at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis on Friday, June 8 from 10 am - 4 pm. Come and discuss these



question: Why is the faith community concerned about drone warfare? Are civilians protected in drone warfare? What is the effect of drone warfare on drone operators? What does it mean to say: "Kill one terrorist and create 10 more terrorists?" Presenters include:

Bishop Richard E. Pates, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines and former chair of the International Justice and Peace Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Matt Hawthorne, Policy Director, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Washington, DC

Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, President, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

Michael McPhearson, National Executive Director of Veterans for Peace

Maryann Cusimano Love, Professor of Politics, Catholic University, Washington, DC

Two films produced by the Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare for congregations will be screened.

Registration is \$20, or \$10 for students/seniors. We will break at midday for Dhuhr prayer for those who wish to pray.

For those not observing the Ramadan fast, lunch will be provided.

For more information, please call 207-450-7242 or click [here](#) for a flyer. Click [here](#) to register. Sponsored by the Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare and Eden Theological Seminary.



Opportunities for Action

When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. launched a Poor People's Campaign 50 years ago, he did so believing that if people could join together we could form a "new and unsettling force" for justice in our nation. You are invited to be a part of the Poor People's Campaign re-ignited.

The 40 days of action will culminate with a mass rally in Washington, DC on June 23 on the National Mall at 10:00 am between 7th Street and 9th Street for words of inspiration, spirit-filled music and the chance to connect and strategize with advocates from around the country.

The UCC Washington DC office will be hosting a pre-rally gathering for UCC members attending the rally. Click [here](#) to register and get updated details.

Job Opportunities

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.

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.

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

ORIGINS OF FATHER'S DAY (according to history.com)

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as Mother's Day -perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."



On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day. Read [more](#).



Meet Our Summer Staff

Welcome Marcus Vaughan to our 2018 summer staff team! Marcus is returning for his third summer on staff and will be serving as our Waterfront Coordinator. He calls [Llanfyllin](#), a small town in Wales, home but he loves to travel and has made good friends and has "homes" around the world - one of them in Marion, Illinois. In 2012, Rev. John Holst and his family hosted Marcus during his first week-long lifeguard certification class. They developed a strong bond and have stayed connected ever since. Youth development is Marcus' passion. Since last at DuBois Center, he worked for two years at Camp Chief Hector YMCA in collaboration with the Canadian Rockies

Outdoor Learning Centre. During his time there, his responsibilities progressed from canoe out-tripping leader to high ropes course director to outdoor school coordinator. After some time back in Wales, Marcus headed to Melbourne, Australia for a year of travel and work. There he served as a behavioral and welfare officer at a Christian boys college (high school to us Americans) working with students with behavioral challenges. Long-term, Marcus plans to work with youth in the correctional system, helping them to develop strategies and make long-lasting changes in their life situations. In addition to traveling and youth development, Marcus has a passion for soccer. In his late teens, he played professionally and coached youth teams. His family is also very important to him, and he is looking forward to spending quality time with his young niece after returning to Wales.

Marcus is excited to be back at DuBois Center, to see all the familiar faces, make new friends and have another fun and rewarding summer. We are excited for all the experience and energy he brings to our team. Welcome back Marcus!



MEET our SUMMER STAFF

Welcome Jordann Sipe to our 2018 summer staff team! Jordann comes to us from Gordonsville, Virginia. She is a student at Virginia Tech and is double majoring in Dairy Science and Animal & Poultry Science with an emphasis in Livestock & Equine. This summer she will be serving as our Barn Coordinator. Jordann has been riding since she was five years old and is an avid foxhunter! In addition, she is an experienced lifeguard, swim instructor and coach. Numerous horse camps and 4-H camps are also part of her resume. After graduating, Jordann hopes to work with the 4-H program in her state, teaching young people about animal genetics and the importance of genetics in livestock production. She is very excited to be at DuBois Center this summer where her strong faith, love of horses, and passion for helping young people believe in themselves will intersect.



Some of Jordann's favorite things include Sour Patch Kids; southern fried chicken; and anything to do with cows, pigs, and horses. In fact, during the ten days between her last day of classes and heading to camp, she spent time in a dairy working on low stress handling of livestock before heading back to her home barn to help prepare for a rodeo. We are excited Jordann decided to make the trek from Virginia to Illinois for the summer. This was her first big road trip, and she is looking forward to more in the future. Welcome Jordann!



It Takes a Village

This common phrase is often used when referring to raising healthy children or families. It is also a great way to describe caring for a camp like DuBois Center. Without the support provided by scores of volunteers, the ministry of DuBois Center would be greatly diminished.

Each year, thousands of hours are donated as volunteers care for campers and facilities, provide



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

spiritual guidance and moral support, raise needed funds, and plan and prepare for today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities. Last month, teams from St. Paul UCC in Belleville and Christ UCC in Dupo logged over 500 service hours. Currently a youth mission team from O'Fallon UCC is helping with final preparations for summer camp. On June 10, the first volunteer greeters, nurses, chaplains and counselors of the season will open their arms and welcome campers. Watch for pictures and stories highlighting volunteer efforts in coming editions of Weekly Connection.



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.



WELCOME TEAM - Join Us! June 10, 24, July 8, 15, 22

On these five Sundays, scores of UCC campers will arrive at DuBois Center eager and excited to begin their time at camp. Twelve volunteers are needed for each of these Sundays plus summer staff to ensure the check-in process runs smoothly! Volunteers assist with greetings, parking, the camp store, registration, health screenings, dock duty and people-moving. They arrive by 1:15 pm and are done by 4 pm. Please consider joining our Sunday Welcome Team on one or more check-in days. You are invited to wear a church t-shirt and show your spirit. Even consider bringing a team from your church! Let us know in

advance when you can help; contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.

DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



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.

St. Louis-based That Uppity Theatre Company and the University of Central Oklahoma are proud to announce a series production of a new play by acclaimed playwright Eric Ulloa, "26 Pebbles". Presented in partnership with the Missouri Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and "Painting for Peace in Ferguson", the play combines live music, singing, and interviews from Newtown residents as they recount the ripples in their community in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting as well as how a community banded together to heal and reshape their community in the wake of what is both a local and national tragedy. More [information](#).

Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 pm - First Congregational Church of St. Louis (UCC)

6501 Wydown Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63105

Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 pm - St. Paul United Church of Christ

3510 Giles Ave, Saint Louis, Missouri 63116

Thursday, June 21, 7:00 pm - Christ Church Maplewood UCC

2200 Bellevue Ave, Maplewood, MO 63143

Friday, June 22, 7:00 pm - Lafayette Park United Methodist Church

2300 Lafayette Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104

Saturday June 23, 2:00 pm - Daniel Boone Branch, St. Louis County Library

300 Clarkson Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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.



Region 2

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.

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.

Region 8

Celebration of the ministry of Rev. Dr. Don Wagner will be 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

Region 9

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.

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.

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

VBS - June

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

June 18 - 22; 9 am - 12 pm; Maeystown 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; Dupo 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 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;

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 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).

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

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.*

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.*