

Weekly Connection

For the Week of July 8 - July 14, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Happy Independence Day!!

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Pray for...

**Prayer list for
July 8 - 14, 2018**

Churches & Pastors

- Highland Evangelical UCC,
Rev. Chris (Cathy) Hill
- Highland Evangelical UCC,
Rev. Will (Alicia) VerDuin



Photos courtesy of Missy Athmer, St. John's Community Care

God's Web

I am the spider
Hanging from the web of God
Riding the winds
To plant God's web
In yet another place.

Building anew
My home with many shapes
Will feel the vibrations
Of others on the far edges
Of my universe.

Food comes to me
As promised.
Moisture settles on the web
To quench my thirst
As God's web sustains me.

When finished here
I will ride the wind again
Hanging from the web of God
To plant God's web
In yet another place.
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The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

With several of our current/recently retired pastors celebrating anniversaries for serving at one particular church, we were asked who had served their current church the longest. So Christy looked in our *The Journey: Fifty Years of Faith* ISC history book to find the answer. Here's what she found.

Pastor Gary Kniepkamp - 37 years at St Jacob UCC and St John UCC, Summerfield

Pastor Robert Koch - 30 years at St John UCC, New Athens

Pastor David Riebeling - 29 years at St John UCC, Valmeyer - retired in 2017

Pastor Don Wagner - 25 years at St Paul UCC, Lebanon

Pastor Matt Friz - 21 years at St Paul UCC, Floraville

Pastor Martha Thierheimer - 21 years at O'Fallon UCC

Pastor Jeff Schwab - 21 years at St Peter's UCC, Okawville

Pastor Nancy Spier-Lee - 20 years at Zion UCC, Waterloo - retired in 2018

Pastor Diane Grohmann - 18 years at St Paul UCC, Edwardsville

Pastor Don Jones - 18 years at St John's UCC, Plum Hill

Pastor Kevin Strope - 16 years at St Paul UCC, Carlinville

Pastor Earl Crecelius - 16 years at St Paul's UCC, Freeburg

Pastor Phil Kershner - 16 years at Marine UCC

Pastor Bob Lee - 15 years at First Congregational UCC, Dupo

There are several other pastors who have served within Illinois South Conference for extended years of service by combining several different calls within the Conference. We didn't go that far to name them all, but thank them for their service as well.

There are a few copies of *The Journey: Fifty Years of Faith history book* remaining if your church needs a copy to help to write its own history. The book lists pastors who have served each church, a history of the development of the United Church of Christ denomination, and the history of DuBois Center, to name a few items of interest. Contact Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org or call 618-654-2125 to order one for your church or family. Cost is \$25.



As the founder and executive director of Collinsville-based St. John's Community Care reflects upon three decades of caring compassionately for aging and disabled individuals, Berry says the common thread is a desire to help not only the aged and disabled, but their caregivers, too. Turning the clock back to 1983, two years

before St. John's Community Care came to be, an idea hatched in the hearts of members of the Healing Community Board at St. John Evangelical United Church of Christ in Collinsville. The idea was to care for homebound seniors. Also during that time, the growing church was seeking to raise funds to install an elevator to make Fellowship Hall under the sanctuary accessible.

The outreach ministry that would eventually be known as St. John's Community Care already included a medical equipment loan closet and Meals on Wheels Team. In preparing to celebrate the successful capital campaign which raised enough funds for the new elevator, St. John Evangelical UCC invited a nationally respected cleric to speak at the dedication: the late Rev. Dr. Harold Wilke, a life-long UCC minister and a staunch disability advocate.

"Dr. Wilke commended us for the outreach our church was already doing to support disabled persons," said Berry, "and he encouraged us to continue to look for additional ways to help because the need was so great and so many needed help right here in our own community. The same is true today." *Read the entire article in their [newsletter](#).*

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 8

Preaching at Farewell Services for Rev. Gary Kniepkamp at St. John's UCC, Summerfield and St. Jacob UCC, St. Jacob

July 15

Preaching at the communion service at Holy Ghost, Darmstadt and Trinity UCC, Biddleborn

July 22

Preaching at St. Peter's UCC Stone Church, Addieville

If you would like our Conference Minister to participate in a worship service or special event at your church, please invite her. Please reach out to Rev. Johnson at the office at 618-654-2125 or her cell phone at 618-882-8247 with some possible dates. You can also send her an email at sjohnson@iscucc.org.

This is your OCWM monies at work.

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Allen and Jan Kolmer, New Baden, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Rev. Rosemary Captain as she deals with some health issues. Rev. Captain is the Pastor for St. John UCC in Fairview Heights. Cards may be sent to her at 22 St Joseph Dr, Lebanon, IL 62254.

- 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 in Addieville 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.

- 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.



United Church of Christ

Whom Shall I Send?

In Puerto Rico, Lavinia just got a new roof, and a church leader said that when volunteers come, it



feels like a hug of transformation and solidarity. UCC Disaster Ministries is recruiting volunteers to repair roofs, do light carpentry and paint interior ceilings and walls. Read [more](#) and/or sign up.

The Washington County Response Team is sponsoring a Christian Music Concert and Craft Fair/Flea Market on Sat, July 14 from 9 am - 2 pm at the Nashville, Illinois Community Park (across the creek). They are gathering funds for travel and supplies to help clean up some of the small towns in Texas that did not get the help that Houston did. Vendors are welcome. Contact 62263wcma@gmail.com for more information.

Eleven Year Reports for Your Church

One of the advantages of the UCC Yearbook is that a report is developed for each church listing a comparison of information for each church for the last 11 years. It can give an excellent statistical snapshot of what is happening at your church. You can get the information for your church by going [online](#) and using the same login and password that was used to input your yearbook information. After logging in, go to the Reports button and click on Eleven Year Report from the dropdown. If you can't get to the information online, contact lschuepbach@iscucc.org, and we will run the report and send it to you.



FREE-Study guides and books

Friedens UCC in Troy generously donated some of the Bible and book studies in which they have participated in the past few years. They wanted some of our ISC churches to be able to use them. So, if you are interested in any of the studies, please contact Christy at cpursell@isucc.org to confirm your request and arrange pick up. These resources are free, but we ask that your church considers a donation to OCWM to strengthen our work within the Conference and the UCC.

Chasing Daylight: DVD of a 10 week study along with 1 leader's book, 1 book and 10 workbooks

Genesis: 9 study books

Exodus: 10 study books

It Starts with One: Igniting the Passion for the Mission of the Church: 1 DVD & 25 participant guides

Fearless Conversation: Why Is Jesus So Radical?: One leader's guide and 15 participant guides

Fearless Conversation: How Can We Be Fully Faithful?: One leader's guide and 15 participant guides

Fearless Conversation: Is God in Control of My Life?: One leader's guide and 15 participant guides

Healthy Eating and Abundant Living. 6 participant books

A Mom's Book of Encouragement. 1 leader's guide, 1 directors guide, 6 books and 6 memory booklets

DuBois Center News

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



YOUTH MISSION WEEK - June 2018

These kids were on a mission! While DuBois Center's summer staff were learning more about activity leadership, behavior management and safety procedures, eleven youth and two adults from O'Fallon UCC tackled a laundry list of work projects. The newly-installed beach house stall dividers got a fresh coat of paint - and so did quite a few arms and legs! The crew tackled major weeding projects at the labyrinth and Rustic chapel.

They also joined the summer staff in traditional staff-bonding projects - prepping the barn and waterfront for campers! Nothing builds comradery like raking algae out of the swim area, pulling weeds from the beach, and stripping and re-bedding stalls in the barn. On top of all that, the O'Fallon crew helped



organize the barn safety equipment, inspected the lake inflatables to locate holes to patch, and deep cleaned the shelter at Lily Pad Landing - the initial greeting point for Rustic campers. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, many projects were checked off the list that otherwise may not have been completed. A big SHOUT-OUT to the team from O'Fallon UCC - you guys ROCK!



Calling All Handicrafters

Are you gifted with gourds, clever with color or cloth, handy with hardware, talented with tools or skilled in stitchery? If yes, DuBois Center is accepting applications for Craft Vendors at our annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 7. Each year over 2,000 people turn out for this family friendly event. To learn more about displaying your wares, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#). At this event, the focus is on hand-crafted pieces; no items may be sold that are primarily commercially produced. We are also



continuing to encourage the addition of truly vintage and repurposed merchandise. A limited number of vendor spaces are available, so don't delay. For more information, contact Susan Fuchs at SusankFuchs@gmail.com or 618-978-3182.

Don't Delay, Register Today!

It's OFFICIALLY summer and July is a great month 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! There are still openings in some 2018 Summer Adventures at DuBois Center, 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. Ready to register? Click [here](#).



WELCOME TEAM - Join Us! July 8, 15, 22

On these three 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 greeting, 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 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@duboiscenter.org.

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!



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: \$95/person or \$380/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.

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services is adding a Teen Center to its campus. The Center will be used to teach appropriate social skills to the residents. They are currently in need of a small freezer for ice cream and such. Also, items for their craft table, and other items that would be appropriate for the center. This addition is just being developed, so donations would be welcome. Please contact Denise Mueller with any questions at DMuell30@gmail.com, 618-973-3019(C) or 618-939-7135(H).

On Tuesday, August 21 from 7:30 am - 9:00 am at Eden Theological Seminary, the Langenberg Leadership Forum: Leadership for the Common Good will present *What's Love Got to Do with It?* featuring Joe Reagan, the former CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce.



Langenberg Leadership Forum
Leadership for the Common Good

He will discuss how faith and business leaders can unite to grow the region. Reagan will share insights from his front-line experience leading business communities in three metropolitan areas. While community problems are exceedingly complex, community solutions begin by individual leaders shifting their mindset from fear to love, from scarcity to abundance, from fragmentation to unity. No cost to attend. A complementary light breakfast is provided. [Registration](#) is required. Call 314-918-2546 with questions. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



St. John's Community Care Upcoming Events

Savvy Caregiver Training sessions provide tools to family members who are caring for an individual with dementia/memory loss who is living at home, either alone or with family. Each session will be comprised of six two-hour sessions. The series of 6 classes will be held on Mondays from 2 pm - 4 pm on July 16, 23, 30 & August 6, 13, 20 at the Gateway Regional Medical Center - Pascal Hall (on main floor) in Granite City. For more information or to register, call 618-344-5008. Download [poster](#).

Donate While You Dine on Wed, July 18 from 5 pm - 8 pm at Culver's of Collinsville will help raise funds for St. John's Community Care. Fifteen (15%) percent of all orders during these hours, including drive through customers, will support St. John's Community Care. No coupon needed. Download [poster](#).

Caregiver Job Fair on Thurs, July 19 from 2 pm - 4 pm at Six Mile Regional Library District, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, IL, gives prospective employees an idea of what St. John's Community Care does and the requirements to work for them. Download [poster](#).

The Cardinals Reminiscence League sponsored by St. John's Community Care and the Alzheimer's Association is open to people with memory loss who would like to share memories about the Cardinals baseball team. New fans and those who would like to socialize and learn more are welcome. Session dates: July 19, Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18 from 10:30 am - 12 pm each day. All sessions are free. Download [poster](#).

The Dementia Friendly Madison County Program is a one-time informal session that lasts an hour. Is your organization or business prepared to serve their neighbors and community as the number of people impacted or diagnosed with dementia increases? For more information about bringing this program to your office or organization, contact Gail Shaw at St. John's Community Care at 618-344-5008. Download [poster](#).

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Staunton St. Paul UCC has some materials for VBS program, *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*, remaining from its recently completed program. There are several stand-up pieces that were used for the set as well as other items. If you are interested in adding them to your program, contact St. Paul UCC in Staunton at 618-635-2386 or email Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins at revdjatkins@gmail.com.

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.

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, IL 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, ability to 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.

Part-time administrative assistant (16 to 24 hours, TBD), for Deaconess Nurse Ministry to help the Executive Director in the office with agency work. Experience in an office with computer skills and desire to serve in a ministry a plus. Email dpupillo@faithnurses.org with resume.

4th Annual Rainbow Camp - Registration 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 5

St. John's UCC in Summerfield and St. Jacob UCC will celebrate the retirement of Rev. Gary Kniepkamp after 37-years of ministry at their regular worship services beginning at 8:30 am at St. John's UCC in Summerfield and at 10:15 am at St. Jacob UCC on July 8. An open house will be hosted on the same day from 1:30 pm until 3 pm at St. Jacob UCC. All are welcome to come and help these two churches celebrate the retirement of Rev. Gary Kniepkamp.

Region 9

St Paul UCC Belleville will welcome Pastor Michelle Torigan for her first service at St Paul UCC Belleville on July 8 at 9 am. All are welcome to join them for worship and celebration.

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*.

VBS - July continued

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; *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*.
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*.

Region 9

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.