

Weekly Connection

For the Week of July 15 - July 21, 2018
 and For the Week of July 22 - 28, 2018

Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

A group of 26 people from St. Paul's UCC Freeburg recently went to Puerto Rico for a mission trip on June 23-30. They stayed in Cayey and worked in surrounding areas which were affected by the Hurricane Maria. Out of the 26 people, there were 8 adults and 18 students! It was amazing! There

was time for mission work and a little play.



Important Links

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duboiscenter.org

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[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

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[LIFE Program](#)

[Neighborhood Houses](#)

[New Athens Home](#)

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

[St. Paul's Home](#)

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Pray for...

Prayer list for

July 15 - 21, 2018

Churches & Pastors

- Hookdale St. Peter's UCC,
 Rev. P. Jerry Bennett



Lurene Connor, a member of the ISC Hunger - Food Action Committee and St. Peter's UCC in Murphysboro is putting her concern for those in need into action. A group from Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC and the Latter Day Saints have teamed together to make organic home-made laundry soap. It began to solve a problem for people who are not allowed to purchase personal

hygiene products, laundry detergent, and toiletries with food stamps. After making the laundry soap, a tag with instructions is attached to each bottle of soap. About 200 bottles are donated to the Murphysboro Food Pantry each month to help those who have access to the pantry. Recently, Lurene was interviewed by WSIL-TV in Carterville, Illinois. Click [here](#) to watch the video of the interview. Lurene challenges other churches to make soap for food pantries in their areas. To get the recipe for making the soap and/or set up a time to shadow the Murphysboro team as they make the soap, contact her at lurene@connorconsulting.net.



Great Lakes Regional Youth Event 2018 has come and gone, but Illinois South Conference (ISC) was well represented! Youth and adults from Carlinville St Paul UCC, Columbia St Paul UCC, Marion Zion UCC, Nashville St Paul UCC, New Hanover Zoar UCC, O'Fallon UCC, and Waterloo St Paul UCC participated in the event held at Elmhurst College July 5 - 8. Pastors John Holst and Kris Avise-Rouse served on the planning team.

Workshop leaders from ISC were Leah "Red" Juenger who led yoga on the campus mall and Pastor R.J. Morgan who led the "Jumping flea" ukulele orchestra in practice and then in worship. Kristian "Sparrow" Avise-Rouse and Bailey "Minnow" Reichert

represented DuBois Center in the exhibit hall, seeking to recruit future camp staff.

ISC youth took leadership roles in liturgy and music, performed in the talent show, won the trivia game, and helped assemble 120 clean-up buckets for Church World Service - AND attended early morning Bible study, participated in workshops, wrote songs, wrote liturgy, ate tons of food, played inside and out, danced, sang, and praised God with 200 new friends from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana-Kentucky Conferences.



A beautiful morning was spent with St. John UCC, Summerfield, IL and St. Jacob UCC, St. Jacob, IL. Lots of tears, lots of stories, lots of memories and lots of gratitude for 37 years of shared ministry as their pastor, Rev. Gary Kniepkamp, moves towards retirement.

A presentation was made by the President of St. Jacob UCC to honor Rev. Kniepkamp.



- Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC, Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer **Retired Pastor**
- Rev. Ken and Jean Knobloch, Maeystown, IL

Prayer list for July 22 - 28, 2018 Churches & Pastors

- Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate
- Jamestown St. Paul UCC, Pastor Don (Lois) Propeck **Retired Pastor**
- Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn, Waterloo, 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.
- Keep Bill (Helen) Whicher in your prayers as he deals with some health issues. Bill and Helen are members of

that simply came naturally to us, we would not be living in a world filled with so much division, strife, intolerance, hatred and pain. Too often, the direct result of the absence of such love is fear, suffering, and destruction.

Love takes work. Love is a conscious daily (or minute by minute) choice. Love does not make us weak; it makes us strong. Love is often the most radical, unexpected, and disarming response. Love is the core essence of our Creator and our Savior. Love is the highest calling. Love is needed now more than ever, because love has the power to transform hearts and minds...both ours and those to whom we are showing love. Love makes all the difference in the world.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

St Louis Association & Parkway UCC proudly announce the

Service of Ordination for Andrew Wilson

Sunday, August 12, 2018

3:00 pm

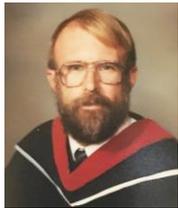
Parkway UCC, 2841 N Ballas Rd, St. Louis, MO 63131



Clergy who wish to participate in the opening processional are invited to wear their robes/vestments.

Reception to follow the Service of Ordination.

Andrew has been serving St. Peter's Evangelical UCC in Granite City as their student pastor since February 2017. He has accepted a call at St. John's UCC in Smithton, Illinois beginning in September.



Celebration of 25 Years of Service

Rev. Charles Preston was ordained on January 10, 1993 in Fulton, New York. Soon after he began serving Zoar United Church of Christ here in Illinois South Conference, followed by calls to churches in the Maine and Ohio Conferences before retiring. A celebration of his 25 years of ordination will be held on Sunday, August 5, at St. John United Church of Christ in Granite City, where his wife, Rev. Karla Frost, now serves. Everyone is invited for worship at 9:30 a.m. followed by a potluck barbecue picnic with meat provided. Rev. Shana Johnson will be participating, and communion will be celebrated.



DuBois Center News

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

Dear Mom and Dad,

Having too much fun at DuBois Center to write you a long letter. Here's some of my favorite photos.





SAVE THE DATE

Mother & Daughter Retreat - October 12-14

Just 90 days and counting to the annual **Mother & Daughter Retreat** at DuBois Center. Summer is heating up, so what better time to dream about sweater weather and the important girls and women in your life?! Enjoy a playful, faith-based weekend together, one packed with engaging activities, inspiring God times, meals without cooking and wonderful fellowship. All ages are welcome, but most activities are geared for girls and women age six and older. Registration opens August 1. Space is limited to 50.



LEARNING...Where the Wild Things Are

Each spring and fall, DuBois Center invites scores of middle school students to disconnect from their electronics and connect with nature

and each other. Nature's Classroom is an outdoor, experiential education program designed to give students the opportunity to explore relevant topics while immersed in a nontraditional setting. "Class" topics include creek hikes focused on stream quality and its impact on aquatic life; primitive skills such as building shelters in the woods or making dip candles and clay pots; basic rocket science with 2-liter bike-pump bottle rockets; predator-prey relationships through a giant game of hide-and-seek tag; the nocturnal world and our senses; as well as favorites like archery and horseback riding. Throughout their stay, the students' curiosity is cultivated and critical thinking skills enhanced. The focus on team building and the residential aspect of our program encourage the building of healthy relationships with classmates. These comments from student evaluations tell the story. "I learned I can work really well with my class and enjoy doing it." "I learned I like being outdoors a lot more than I thought I did." "Sometimes you don't even know you're learning, because it's so much fun." "I loved the food." Click [here](#) to view Nature's Classroom Brochure or contact the DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 for information about openings for Spring 2019.



JOB OPPORTUNITY: Nature's Classroom Instructor

Are you a substitute teacher, active retiree or someone with a flexible schedule? Do you enjoy the outdoors and have experience working with youth or as a teacher? Nature's

Classroom Instructors are needed from September 17 through October. Work with school groups (grades 5-8) that stay overnight at DuBois Center. Provide a fun and supportive environment, while teaching about predator-prey interactions, night life in the woods, cultural differences, erosion, teamwork and other engaging topics. Our instructors teach classes, and lead campfires and other evening activities. Parent chaperones supervise free time, dining tables and cabin times. Training is provided, as are meals and overnight accommodations during Nature's Classroom sessions. Click [here](#) for a program brochure or position [description](#). Then contact DuBois Center at shirley.director@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



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. 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...

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

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

Region 7

VBS - July

Trinity UCC in Belleville is accepting applications for the part-time position

The Washington County Response Team is sponsoring a

July 15 - 19; 6 pm - 8 pm; Stone Church St. Peter's UCC & Plum Hill

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 this [email](#). A background check will be required before hire. Applications for this position will be accepted until filled.

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](#) with resume.

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. For more information, click [here](#).

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.

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.*