

Weekly Connection

For the Week of August 26 - September 1, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



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](#)

Pray for...

**Prayer list for
Aug 26 - Sept 1, 2018
Churches & Pastors**

- Mascoutah St. John UCC,
Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz
- Metropolis Zion UCC, Pastor
David (Treila) Krueger, Interim
Pastor

Green DuBois

Many of us think of DuBois Center as a special piece of God's creation. With the formation of a new Conference team, we're going to renew our emphasis on the ecological biodiversity that makes our camp unique.

Green DuBois is a new team that will focus on camp sustainability by sharing our resources with the public in ways that work around our camp season, while bringing in new revenue. The other two branches of Green DuBois will focus on active forest management and building on our existing green, ecologically sustainable practices.

Green DuBois is looking for volunteers who love the outdoors. If you have an interest in biology, botany, ornithology, herpetology, ecology, astronomy or many other facets of science, we're looking for you. If you are a master naturalist, master gardener, or weekend invasive species removal specialist, come join us. If you're a professional in these areas, we could definitely use your help, too. Members of the Outdoor Ministries Team, Finance Ministries Team, Property Committee, and the Conference Council are especially invited to attend.

If you'd like to learn more, come to a meeting **Thurs, Sept 20, at 6:30 pm** at the Highland office. We'll sketch out some initial ideas, and start to form groups to focus on the three branches of Green DuBois. Before the meeting, please contact Jill Baker at jabaker5@aol.com, for a copy of our forest management plan.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference....



United in Faith Church of Pana hosted an ecumenical handbell workshop with the local Methodist Church on Sat, Aug 11 from 1 pm - 4 pm. Gail Welk from Bells in Motion of Springfield and Malmark Bellcraftsman led the workshop in preparation for the upcoming season. There were over a dozen participants. Thank you to all who participated.

Rainbow Camp Celebrates Diversity

Campers ages two to seventy came to Rainbow Camp this year, and all had a great time. The fourth incarnation of this annual event set a new record for participants and included all the classic camp activities, like canoeing, fishing, archery



and horseback riding. There was a special presentation by Master Naturalist Kathleen Gaare-Wiese on amphibians and reptiles, which was followed by making toad houses during craft time. Another special activity this year was a nature hike led by Marty Kemper, DuBois volunteer and also a Master Naturalist. Marty shared his vast knowledge of the plant and animal life at camp during the hike, including finding a tiny, rare orchid.

It's hard to capture what Rainbow Camp means to participants, but one high school camper put it this way, "you often think you have to be OR. You're either LGBT or you're Christian. Here you can be AND. You can be both." When participants spoke at the closing circle about what they got from the day, words like community, love, authentic, family, understanding, and peace all freely bubbled up. This camp is a special place where everyone can be their authentic selves and all are seen as children of God.

Rainbow Camp is for LGBTQ singles, couples and families, as well as straight allies. It will be held again next August at DuBois Center.

\$100,000 UMCOR grant boosts Hurricane Harvey recovery

UCC Disaster Ministries has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for its work to restore 17 low-income rental units in Port Arthur, Texas, that Hurricane Harvey flooded with two feet of water last August.

The Affordable Housing Recovery Project is a partnership with the South East Texas Community Development Corporation (SETCDC), a local non-profit which owns and manages the apartments.

Hurricane Harvey set back both the corporation and its renters. SETCDC did not have the financial reserves to cover the overwhelming cost of rehabilitating the flood-damaged units.

In Port Arthur, the local infrastructure has been unable to provide adequate assistance to those affected by Hurricane Harvey. This once prosperous coastal community has been hard hit by years of economic recession and job outsourcing, pushing more than one-third of the population below the poverty line and the median income to barely half the national average.

"Port Arthur simply cannot recover on its own, which makes our help all the more important," said UCC Disaster Ministries Executive Zach Wolgemuth. "We are extremely grateful to UMCOR for their support and willingness to partner with us to restore affordable, safe, decent rental housing to this community's residents."

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian aid and development organization of the United Methodist Church. The UMCOR grant will go toward construction materials and appliances.

"The UMCOR grant represents the truth of the UCC's ecumenical mission, joining hands with others focused on meeting the needs of underserved communities," said the Rev. Joshua Lawrence, UCC Disaster Ministries



United Church of Christ

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Chris & Lena Edwards, Converse, TX

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for the family of David Detering as they mourn his death. David was the former Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Foundation, which has helped many ISC clergy families over the years.

Visitation will be at Bopp Chapel, 10610 Manchester Rd, Kirkwood, Missouri, on Wed, Aug 22 from 4 pm to 5 pm with the funeral service at 5 pm.

- Keep Kyle Nuetzel (24) in your prayers as he continues rehabilitation at home. Kyle is the son of Kathy & Rev. Patrick Poole.

- Pray for Rev. Gary (Joyce) Kniepkamp as he recuperates from an accident. Rev. Kniepkamp recently retired from being the Pastor for St. Jacob UCC and Summerfield St. John's UCC. Cards may be sent to him at 1431 Summerfield Rd, St. Jacob, IL 62281.

- Keep Rev. Paul and Marilyn Thompson in your prayers as each of them deals with health issues. Rev. Thompson is retired, but serves on the ISC Recruitment Committee.

Cards may be sent to them at 910 Circle Drive, Red Bud, IL 62278.

- 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.

Hurricane Harvey Recovery Coordinator.

UCC Disaster Ministries is recruiting volunteer mission teams for such work as light carpentry, drywall, insulation, flooring, trim and painting. In addition, the UCC has contributed \$120,000 to date toward construction materials, appliances and project management. The \$100,000 UMCOR grant will go toward construction materials and appliances.

The Affordable Housing Recovery Project and the UMCOR grant recognize the importance of affordable, decent, safe housing for lifting families out of poverty.

"The myth persists that substandard housing is a symptom of poverty rather than one of its causes," Wolgemuth said. "Affordable, secure housing helps to stabilize the basic building block of any society, the family." Upon completion of the rehabilitation of the 17 rental units, SETCDC and UCC Disaster Ministries plan to transition to rehabilitating additional properties in Beaumont and Port Arthur.

Read [more](#) about the UMCOR grant.

[Organize](#) a volunteer work team to Port Arthur.

Eden Theological Seminary invites you and your conference members to join them for Opening Convocation. This year, the event is a week earlier than normal. Here are some of the details.

Opening Convocation - Monday, August 27, 2018

You are invited to join the students, faculty and staff of Eden Theological Seminary for Opening Convocation at 11:30 am in Eden's Wehrli Chapel. The members of the incoming class and returning students are both welcome.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Seminary, will welcome the gathered community.

Address

The Opening Convocation address will be given by Dr. Jennifer Leath, Pastor of Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Assistant Professor of Religion and Social Justice at Illiff School of Theology.

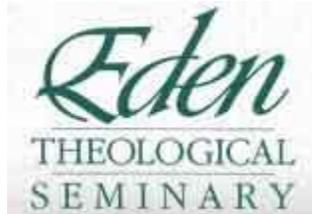
Faculty Update

Dr. Sharon Tan, Dean of the Seminary, will provide the faculty update.

Introduction of New Students

The incoming class will be introduced by Rev. Tiffany Pittman, Director of Admissions.

Immediately following you are invited to a picnic lunch in the Schroer Commons. This will be an informal opportunity for conversation with students, faculty, staff and friends.



The Illinois Conference of Churches seeks to be an inclusive community of churches that celebrates and makes visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. They seek to unite churches and denominations in cooperative ministries intended to educate others and be witnesses of Christ's love for all. Their Annual Assembly takes place on Friday, September 28 in Champaign, IL. To read more about the ICC and their annual meeting, please click [here](#).

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 26

Preaching at the Installation Service of Rev. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

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.



DuBois Center News

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



Fall Festival - VOLUNTEER!

Sunday, October 7

DuBois Center's annual Fall Festival is powered by the talent, sweat, love and cheer of scores of volunteers. Hopefully you already plan to attend and enjoy some good food, great music and creative crafts, but have you considered

spending a few hours volunteering? There are lots of ways to



serve - assist with parking or greet visitors, drive a boat or a tractor, take tickets or take money, catch pontoon boats or walk horses at the arena, serve food, paint faces or help with set up or clean up! Volunteer and support DuBois Center. Your efforts really do make a big difference! For more information, contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

By now, via snail mail, every ISC church should have received a packet of pertinent information about Fall Festival. We ask that each church use a variety of ways to promote DuBois Center's annual fund-raising event. Below are links to electronic versions of promotional pieces for newsletters, website, bulletins, etc. Feel free to click on the links below to use them in promoting Fall Festival. Thanking you in advance for your assistance in promoting Fall Festival.

Flyer for [Upscale](#) Resell Shoppe
Flyer for Fall Festival [Attractions](#) in Oak Lodge
Flyer for Fall Festival Quilt [Raffle](#)
Quilt [Tickets](#)
Flyer for Craft [Vendors](#)
Craft Vendor [Registration](#) Packet
[Flyer](#) for Sweet Treats



SWEET TREATS!

It's hard to imagine Fall Festival at DuBois Center without a tempting variety of sweet treats to munch on throughout the day. Each year church members across the Illinois South Conference gather in their kitchens to cook up big batches of cookies, bars, candies, snack mixes, pies and cakes to be sold in the Sweet Shoppe. Get your **Bake Date** on the calendar now. Proceeds go directly to the DuBois Center Scholarship Fund; help send a young person to camp! Click [here](#) for a flyer to post at your church and share with friends.

WHO: Everyone is invited to contribute goodies

WHAT: Homemade or purchased Sweet Treats of all kinds

WHEN: Sale Date is Sunday, Oct. 7 at the DuBois Center Fall Festival.

CONTACT: For more information, call or text Melissa at 314-440-6646 or Kristen at 618-567-6863.

It's QUILT time!

The clock is ticking... less than 9 weeks till the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival and the much anticipated Quilt Drawing. This year, three beautiful and unique quilts have been donated. Two are queen-size and one is twin-size. One is a salute to our 50 states; one has an elegant diamond-star pattern; and one has fun blocks in shades of brown and gold. With these gems, we hope to raise a minimum of \$2000. You can help by **spreading the word!** A [flyer](#) with pictures and [tickets](#) are available to assist. You are also invited to sell tickets and display one or more of the quilts at your church on a Sunday morning or during a special event. Contact Norma Borgmann at 618-533-1658 (home) or 618-292-4617 (cell) to reserve a showing of a quilt.



Mother & Daughter Retreat October 12-14

School, sports, band, clubs and church programs are all picking up steam, making quality family time even more difficult to schedule. STOP! You are invited to breathe, slow down and spend quality time with the girls and women

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



in your life at DuBois Center's annual Mother-Daughter Retreat. Engaging activities, inspiring God Time, great fellowship, meals without cooking - all are part of this weekend escape. Participate in everything or choose a more relaxed weekend, perhaps with board games, knitting or leisurely strolls. Either way, the focus of this retreat is on building relationships and making memories with loved ones! All generations and groupings are welcome: mothers and daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters, godmothers and nieces! Register by **Friday, Sept 21** and save \$10 per person. **Early Bird Rates:** \$108 for adults, \$93 for 12-17 years olds, and \$84 for 4-11 year olds. There is an additional charge for horseback riding. Check out this [flyer](#) and RSVP form. **Online registration opens this coming Friday - August 24.** Go to www.DuBoisCenter.org.

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 and 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 618-787-2202 or [email](#).



Sunday Welcome Team - THANK YOU!

Each Sunday of our summer camp season, DuBois Center buzzes with scores of excited campers and their families, all energized and ready for their time at camp. Ensuring a smooth check-in process with as few delays as possible is a tall order - one made possible ONLY with the help of 12-15 volunteers each week. Our Sunday Welcome Team braves the sweaty summer temperatures with smiles on their faces as they direct parking, greet families, check heads for critters, screen health forms, catch and drive pontoon boats, operate the camp store, and direct the flow of traffic through the check-in process.

This summer over 40 different volunteers - many serving on multiple Sundays - made a HUGE difference! On behalf of DuBois Center staff, parents and campers, we would like to extend a hearty and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who assisted this summer: **Donna Asbridge; Rev. Kris, Nicole & Casey Avise-Rouse; Mark & Debbie Beckmeyer; Norma Borgmann; Craig & Rev. Katie Jo Beilke; Joan Daab; Sue Davis; Rev. Christy Eckert; Aaron, Harmon & Susan Fuchs; Audrey Hicks; Rev. John Holst; David Jackson; Leah & Wendy Juenger; Don Kaiser; Kim Karn; Sandy & Scott Kuether; Lisa & Rev. RJ Morgan; Rev. Todd Mushaney; Jessica Nave; Braden & Kelly Neighbors; Anne & Jason Petry; Leigh Poole; Kathy & Rick Porter; Alaina, Ava & Ian Scherle; Leslie Sopp; Joe & Kara Schmid; Laura & Melissa Van Echten; Nancy Wagner; and Darline Wehl.** Please forgive us if we missed anyone; everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sunday Welcome Team Rock Stars: Donna Asbridge, Norma Borgmann and Scott Kuether assisted with all six Sunday check-in days; Audrey Hicks recruited "head check teams" for five weeks of the summer. A special thanks for your hard work and dedication!



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

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 classes will be held on Fridays, September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5 and 12 from 10 am - 12 pm at the St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville. For more information or to register, call 618-344-5008. 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: Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18 from 10:30 am - 12 pm each day. All sessions are free. Download [poster](#).

ST. JOHN'S
COMMUNITY CARE
Caring compassionately for aging and disabled people since 1985

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...



LIFE at Eden Begins in September

Date(s) - 09/14/2018 - 09/15/2018

5:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Certificate Course - *Telling and Living the Story: Evangelism*

Rev. Shana Johnson,

Conference Minister, Illinois South Conference UCC

This course will be a journey in exploring how pastors and church leaders can navigate their way towards expressing the Gospel in an authentic manner. In a non-threatening, invitational space, participants will consider what they believe the good news to be. Through examining what we believe, who we are in the image of God, and how we develop our own spiritual lives, we will begin to see how our personal witness can be compelling to others.

Required reading prior to Sept. 14: The book *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists* by Mark Teasdale

Elective Course - *Prepare the Way: Creative Advent Planning for Clergy and Musicians*

Paul Vasile,

Director of Music, Eden Theological Seminary

Explore the prophetic and poetic power of the Advent and Christmas seasons through music and improvisation with sacred text. We'll explore Revised Common Lectionary texts for the season (Year C), seeking insights that inspire compelling preaching and liturgy. We'll sing together, experiencing how music from a breadth of traditions can enliven and enrich worship, and we'll collaborate, building a community of creativity and mutual support.

The United Church of Christ Musicians Association presents a FREE Church Musician Sharing Session on Sun, Sept 23 from 3 pm - 4:30 pm at the First Church of Lombard UCC, 220 S Main St, Lombard, IL 60148. It is open to all denominations. The session is a wonderful opportunity to share ideas, solve problems, and expand your network in a casual and intimate setting. Bring your favorite music for choirs, any type of instrumental or vocal ensemble, piano, organ and/or congregational song. Share your triumphs and your struggles, your wisdom and your questions. Together, we have a wealth of knowledge and experience - let's share it! Click [here](#) to register by August 31. For more information, contact Janette Rodriguez at rodriguez@firstchurchoflombard.org or Michele Hecht at michele@fccge.org. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



The UCC for Mental Health presents WISE (Welcoming-Inclusive-Supportive-Engaged) Conference for Mental Health: *The Power of Personal Story and Breaking the Silence on Mental Illness* on Sat, September 29 at South Congregational Church, UCC, 41 Central Street, Andover, Massachusetts 01810, with Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice.

Sarah is passionate about loving God, her family, and being part of faith communities. Her personal mission is to partner with others to share God's healing and hope. She is an ordained minister with standing in the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served as pastor to churches in Brooklyn, New York, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

She is the author of the widely regarded book "Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and Church" (Chalice Press, 2014) and blogs at sarahgriffithlund.com. Sarah has recently joined the UCC National Staff in a part-time position on the Wholeness Advocacy Team of Justice and Local Church Ministries, serving as the newly created Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. Cost: \$45/person. Churches with 3 or more registrants: \$40/person. Onsite Registration: \$55/person. Click [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to register.

The United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, in collaboration with the New York Conference, invites you to attend the 2018 "Widening the Welcome Conference: Living, Learning, Leading" on November 1 - 3, 2018 at the Sheraton Niagara Falls and the Niagara Falls Convention Center in Niagara Falls, New York. The Widening the Welcome Conference is built around the UCC's vision for disability inclusion throughout the UCC. Workshops offer information about Accessibility & Inclusion (A2A), Advocacy, Christian Education and more. There will also be a panel to bring awareness and insight on living with a disability, and living into the fullness of service to an accessible, inclusive and loving God. Invited speakers include keynote speaker, UCC General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer; Executive Minister for Justice and Local Church Ministries, Rev. Traci Blackmon; Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund; and Still Speaking Devotional Writer, Rev. Jennifer Brownell. Click [here](#) for online registration and [here](#) for hotel rates/reservations.



There will also be an opportunity to register for a Mental Health First Aid class on November 1. This class, organized with the help of UCC Mental Health Network, offers continuing education credit upon completion.

Registration Fees:

Full event (Nov 1-3) \$200 prior to Oct 1; \$225 after Oct 1

Friday only, including banquet (Nov 2) \$125 prior to Oct 1; \$150 after Oct 1

Mental Health First Aid \$50 includes required workbook, breakfast and lunch



Join St. John UCC in Trenton for the Installation of Rev. Christy Eckert on September 9, 2018 at 3 pm at St. John United Church of Christ, 21 N Walnut St., Trenton, Illinois. Offering will go to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Reception with light refreshments to follow. No gifts, please. Pastors who wish to participate are asked to robe with a red stole and arrive at 2:30 pm.

First Congregational UCC in Dupo has two sets of hymnals to give away: approximately 75 of "Hymns of the Christian Life," manufactured by Christian Publications in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania (1978) and approximately 75 of "The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ," manufactured by the United Church Press in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1974). Contact Gary Edwards at 618-806-1337 or garyedwards3477@gmail.com.

All Regions

Region 4

Region 4

The ISC Pastors/Spouses Fellowship gatherings will resume its monthly luncheons at the Red Apple Restaurant in Maryville on Thurs, Sept 27 at 11:30 am. Although this group is made up largely of retired folks, we welcome any clergy and/or spouses who would like to come to share in conversation and fellowship over a lunch meal. Please RSVP by Monday evening, Sept. 24 to Herb & Bennie Schafale at 618-476-3925 or [email](mailto:herb@schafale.com). Thanks.

Being LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, Intersex, asexual or ally) outside of downtown St Louis can be an isolating and often times difficult experience. Pastor Laurie Crelly of St. John's UCC in Brighton along with other local organizers are offering an organizing meeting on **Tues, Aug 28 at 7 pm. at the Brighton St. John's UCC church.** We want to bring people together to share resources, find common points of connection and form new groups to support LGBTQIA people and their families in the River Bend / Metro East area. Possible outcomes - social events, support groups of various kinds, seminars or teaching events, community celebrations, educational events to reduce stigma and hate, etc. **All supportive people are welcome to attend - youth, LGBTQIA, Allies, clergy and professional people.**

On Sun, Sept 23 at 11 am, St. John's UCC in Brighton will hold **Pets in the Park Festival** at Schneider Park, 414 N Maple St on Hwy 111/267 in Brighton. Join them for a brief worship service to bless pets and farming animals followed by lunch and pet festival. Petting zoo, friendly contests and various pet judging competitions with categories like best costume, most exotic pet, best tricks and more. Bring a lawn chair and please have your pets leashed or in a carrier to avoid run-away pets. All are welcome. A free will offering of pet supplies and cash donations will also be received and donated to area shelters.

Region 3

St. Peter Evangelical UCC in Granite City will raffle a hand-made quilt to support the church. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. To purchase tickets, call Carolyn at 618-877-1904.