

Weekly Connection

For the Week of September 2 - September 8, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference....

Going Solar - St Paul United Church of Christ in Columbia, IL

At a congregational meeting on Sunday, August 26, St. Paul United Church of Christ in Columbia, IL, approved a major solar energy project. All of the flat roofs of the facility plus a small portion of the pitched roof will have solar panels installed. They love participating in the 3 Loves Initiative in a variety of ways and now they can say that they are participating in the Love of Creation through this

significant solar project.



Region 9 Brings Together Music, Fellowship and Ice Cream

It might have been pouring rain outside on July 29, but inside St. John UCC in Fairview Heights it was sunny and spirit-filled. Congregations from the churches in Region 9 gathered together to hear the B Street Band from St. Paul UCC in Belleville. The members of the band shared their talents and faith, including

inviting the audience to join in song. After everyone used their voices in song, they cooled off their vocal cords with ice cream, with all kinds of toppings of course, accompanied by cookies, cake, and conversation. Old friends were reunited and new friendships were begun. A huge thank you to the Co-Conveners of Region 9, Sharon Banjavcic and Nancy Eisenhower for hosting the event.



SHELTERBOXUSA is an international disaster relief charity that provides temporary shelter and life-saving supplies to displaced families and is a mission project of St. Paul UCC, Waterloo. St. Paul UCC's former member, Erik Elsea, is raising awareness and attempting to win a grant for ShelterBoxUSA with his canoe voyage down the Mississippi. You may vote

every 24 hours to help him win the Eagle Rare Life Award with its \$50,000 prize for ShelterBoxUSA. Go to VoteForErik.com and vote once every 24 hours until December 5. No personal information required.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. However, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

-1 Corinthians 12: 12, 18-19, 21

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 Sept 2 - 8, 2018

Churches & Pastors

- Midway St. John's UCC, Rev. Lori (Wayne) Schafer
- Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC, Rev. Michael Cassady

When I was in college there was a required class simply entitled "Intro to Fine Arts." The intention of the class was to provide an overview of the arts focusing on four main areas: architecture, art, theatre, and music. Most students assumed it would be their "easy class" for the semester when they discovered the class would include field trips to the art museum, buildings in downtown St. Louis, an opera, plays and the symphony. However, they quickly (me included) realized that the class might be their most challenging of the semester.

In the architecture section, you had to be able to quickly identify things like the difference between Ionic, Doric and Corinthian columns. In the art section, you would quickly have to name styles like pointillism, surrealism, and impressionism as well as the artists and pieces of work that reflected those styles. In the theatre section of the semester, you had to describe the differences between overtures, acts, and arias. Yet, when we finally got to the music section of the semester, well that is where I thought I was home free.

In high school, I had been in marching band, orchestra, and symphonic band. I knew how to read music. I knew music history. I knew music theory. I also thought I knew what instruments sounded like and what role they played. I had been a first chair flutist. I was arrogant.

So when we got to the unit of musical listening, I thought it would be breeze. How hard could it be to sit in the library carrel, put some headphones on, listen to music, and write down all of the instruments you heard? Well, let me tell you, it was hard! I spent more hours than I care to admit in those library carrels trying to listen for all the instruments that were featured in those assigned pieces of music.

Now keep in mind, I was a flute player. That meant in symphonic band and orchestra, I got to sit up front center, very close to the conductor mind you. Not only did I get to sit up front, but also I got to play the melody.

And in all the years of playing the melody, having the opportunity to have solos and to have face to face interaction with conductors, I had arrogantly convinced myself I didn't need the rest of the instruments, the rest of the players. I could play the melody. I could carry the tune all by myself. I had no need of the trombones. I had no need of the drummers or the xylophone players.

Friends, let me tell you this is what privilege and entitlement looks and sounds like.

You get the best parts.

You have the best seat.

You get direct access to the leader of the band.

If you have not come to this conclusion on your own, or you are just too polite to think it--I will say it for you...I had a flutist's privilege. I needed an attitude adjustment that could only come through two important things: education and a willingness to truly listen to others.

Thank goodness for my wonderful professor. He taught me the role and the importance of each instruments and encouraged me to do deep listening.

Suddenly I heard things I had never heard.

I heard the sweet low and high sounds of the strings.

I heard the breadth of the melody in the beauty of the woodwinds.

I heard the crisp riffs of the brass.

I heard the smooth, rich harmonies of trombones and tubas.

I heard the color and dramatics of the percussion section.



When you are able to truly listen to music and hear the different instruments, it gives you an appreciation for all music. I believe this is exactly the message that the apostle Paul was trying to convey in utilizing the metaphor of the human body being likened to the body of Christ.

When we say, I have no need of you. We are essentially saying we have no need of your song, your voice-what you can contribute to the music of life. When we say I have no need of you, we limit ourselves to learning, growing and expanding our repertoire.

The truth is we have need of each other. There is no one we can claim we have no

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Jan Dashner (Rev. Robert Goddard), O'Fallon, IL

People with Life Concerns

- 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.

need of. We cannot fully and wholly exist and live into what God has designed and planned for you without each other. Why? Because each of us make up the musical masterpiece of our churches, our communities, our Conference, the wider Church and the world.

We are called to be United...not Untied.

Now mind you, unity is not to be confused with uniformity.

Unity is working together to make sure the melody, harmony, and rhythm come together seamlessly to produce a beautiful, inspiring body of work.

It will take practice.

It will take education.

And it will take truly listening to one another and appreciating each other's roles and gifts to the whole.

It is truly an art to work towards unity.

Yet, the result is awe-inspiring.

My hope and prayer for the churches in this Conference is that you always remember the importance of saying and believing, "I NEED YOU!" It will make us stronger when we work together, when we play together and when we learn from each other.

Together we can compose our own unique Unity Symphony of the Church of Jesus Christ--offering up the gift of love, grace, kindness, compassion, and justice to all people who need to hear it, see it and receive it.

The world is listening...

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 2

Preaching at St John UCC in Weldon Spring

September 9

Participating in the installation service of Rev. Christy Eckert at St. John UCC, Trenton

September 16

Preaching at St. John UCC, Mascoutah

September 23

Participating in the Farewell Service for Rev. Lisa Hart at St. Peter's UCC, Red Bud

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.

The Pension Boards announced that the new edition of the Pension Boards' booklet, *A Just World for All*, is available for download. Click [here](#).

A Just World for All describes the Pension Boards' sustainable investment activities, and is a helpful tool for UCC leaders and congregations that share our denominational commitment to faithful stewardship of the earth and its resources.

They also invite you to use their Speaker's Bureau to invite someone from the Pension Boards to an upcoming event, gathering, committee meeting, study group, or worship service to speak with you directly about sustainable investment and the many ways in which we can collaborate through investment strategies to help create *A Just World for All*. Speakers are available at no cost to the UCC host organization.

For additional information, or to request a print copy of *A Just World for All*, contact Rick Walters directly at rwalters@pbucc.org or 800-642-6543, ext. 2760. Or click [here](#) for their website.



DuBois Center News

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

FALL Sunday Oct 7
from 11-5
FESTIVAL
DuBois Center

FALL FESTIVAL

It's time to start spreading the word about DuBois Center's annual Fall Festival! Share this [flyer](#) and watch for bulletin inserts and more after the Labor Day weekend.



NATURE

DuBois Center is home to an astonishing variety of native Illinois plants - including many beautiful wildflowers. These blooms play key roles in their ecosystems. Pollen and nectar feed butterflies, bees and other pollinators, which in turn feed birds and other critters up the food chain. Without the flowers to feed the bugs, the bugs to spread the pollen, or the predators to keep bug populations in check, the entire system falls apart. This delicate dance plays out all over camp, often right on the edges of our other activities!



CONNECTIONS

This summer, our staff got a blast from the past - postcards from a former international summer staffer! Beth sent an envelope full of postcards all the way from Melbourne,



Australia. The note she wrote to the staff as a whole reads: "Hi, my name is Beth. I was a counselor during summer 2004 & 2005. DuBois Center has many amazing memories that have stayed with me ever since. I hope you all keep in touch and have had an amazing summer. The Lord will use all you have sown and sacrificed these last few months. Thank you and please know that lives will be changed and kids' lives will have become better by spending time with you this summer. God bless and have a safe trip home. Love, Beth Shanks (Reitenbach)" The personalized postcards were a perfect pick-me-up for the end of the summer! Thanks Beth!



Fall Work Days Saturdays Oct 6 & Nov 3

Enjoy a fresh fall day amid the tall oaks at DuBois Center! Stretch your muscles! Make a difference! Plan now to gather friends, family or a group from your church for a day of service. Projects vary depending on current needs, the weather and the skills of the volunteers. Our list is growing and already includes painting, cleaning, weeding, raking, cleaning, tree & brush removal and fence work. On Saturday, Oct 6 we'll set-up and prep the grounds for Fall Festival. On Saturday, Nov 3, we'll tackle whatever is left on our list. Click [here](#) for a flyer, or for more information contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



SUMMER STAFF FAREWELL

As we close the books on another season of summer camp at DuBois Center, we reflect fondly on the group of young adults that made up the 2018 Summer Staff. They came from near and far in hopes of sharing wonderful, life-changing experiences with their campers. Whether they drove to camp from right here in southern Illinois or journeyed from the other side of the country and globe, first-timers or veterans, they all added their own unique threads to the DuBois Center tapestry. We wish them luck as they return to school, "big kid jobs", or other grand adventures! Not pictured: Twig (Laura Renken)



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!



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: Sept 20, Oct 18 from 10:30 am - 12 pm each day. All sessions are free. Download [poster](#).

LIFE at Eden Begins in September

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

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...



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 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 jrodriguez@firstchurchoflombard.org or Michele Hecht at michele@fccge.org. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

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

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.

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.

Region 4

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. A brief

Region 3

Okawville St. Peter's UCC will hold a SHRIMP BOIL on Aug 31 from 6 pm - 8 pm at Okawville Community Club Park Pavilion. All-you-can-eat menu

Region 8

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

worship service to bless pets and farming animals will be followed by lunch and pet festival. Petting zoo, friendly contests and various pet judging competitions. Bring a lawn chair. Pets should be leashed or in a carrier to avoid run-away pets. A free will offering of pet supplies and cash donations will also be received and donated to area shelters.

includes shrimp, sausage, potatoes, corn, onions, cornbread, dessert & lemonade. Hot dogs, chips, and dessert will also be available for purchase! Adults \$15; Kids (4-12) \$8; 3 & Under Free. The Shrimp Boil is sponsored by the St. Peter's UCC, Okawville Women's Guild to raise money for the Educational Building Kitchen Remodel Fund. Reserve your tickets by calling the church office at 618-243-5973. **Please call the church office at 618-243-5973 between 8 - 11 a.m. to reserve your tickets for this fun event as tickets are limited.**

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.