

# Weekly Connection

For the Week of September 16 - September 22, 2018  
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



## The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference....

St. John's UCC in Johannsburg was organized as the Independent Evangelical Lutheran St. Johannes Congregation in 1837. The first church building was made of logs and was erected at the intersection across the road from where the Droege home is now located. It also served as a schoolhouse where the children were taught the German language and the Christian religion

from the Lutheran Catechism and the Bible. In 1865, the old schoolhouse was found inadequate and a new brick schoolhouse was built. After the brick schoolhouse was partially destroyed in a rainstorm in 1912, the current frame schoolhouse replaced it. St. John's joined South Illinois Synod of the Evangelical & Reformed Church on October 3, 1937, and in 1957 became part of the United Church of Christ. The church is the oldest church in the Illinois South Conference.

A few of our current members have fond memories of the school being used for half-day religious instruction in preparation for confirmation during the month of May in the 1940s and 1950s. Over the years, the building has also been used for church council meetings, women's guild



meetings, funeral luncheons, Lenten bible studies, church breakfasts, and Sunday school classes. Recently, the members of Johannsburg St. John's UCC renovated this one room school. The original hardwood floor was saved and refinished. An addition was added that includes a classroom, kitchen, restroom, storage closet, along with central heat and air conditioning. It was also made handicap accessible.

A special morning worship and dedication service was held in the school on Sunday, August 26, 2018, led by Rev. William Groennert. The service began with the ringing of the old school hand bell, and the newly renovated school was dedicated to the leadership of Reverend Groennert, the congregation who continue to support the church, and the children who are the future of their church. A potluck luncheon followed the service for members and guests. St. John's UCC will continue with regular Sunday morning worship services at 8:30 am in the church. Sunday school classes will resume this fall in the newly renovated school.

Pictured are Johannsburg St. John's UCC members attending the dedication service and a photo of the renovated school with St. John's UCC in the background.

## Important Links

[iscucc.org/](http://iscucc.org/)

[duboiscenter.org](http://duboiscenter.org)

[ucc.org](http://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 16 - 22, 2018**

### **Churches & Pastors**

- New Baden Zion UCC, Rev.

Yvette Eber, Interim Pastor

- New Hanover Zoar UCC, Rev.

R.J. (Lisa) Morgan

**September is Hunger Action Month** - a month where people all over America stand together with the nationwide network of food banks and food pantries to fight hunger. It's a month to spread the word and take action on the hunger crisis and dedicate ourselves to a solution.

### **Will you join in?**

Many churches are recognizing church vegetable gardens or community gardens

as powerful ways to increase the availability of fresh vegetables and fruits for their community food pantries.

On October 7, a Church Garden Workshop will be held at the Central Reformed Congregation, 5020 Waterman Blvd, St. Louis from 1 pm - 5:30 pm. The



Synagogue is located in the historic "Holy Ground" area at Kingshighway and Waterman. The event has many sponsors including Operation Food Search and Gateway Greening Community Gardens, both of which also serve Illinois. The event is free, but reservations are required and can be made [online](#). Click [here](#) for a flyer. Photo shows (l to r) members of the ISC Hunger/Food Action Committee: Linda

Schaller-St. Paul UCC, Waterloo; Sue Tinge-Christ UCC, Belleville; and a friend of the committee: Janet McCready-Church of the Good Shepherd, Carbondale.

### **Retired Pastor**

- Rev. Linda and Bob Coulson, Palm Coast, FL

### **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.

### **WORLD PEACE DAY**

#### **Friday, Sept 21**

The International Day of Peace, sometimes known as World Peace Day, is observed annually on September 21. First celebrated in 1982, this day is dedicated to [world peace](#) and specifically the absence of [war](#) and [violence](#). This year, the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is being recognized. From education to the arts, social justice to sports, health to the environment, neighborhood issues to service for others, there are many ways to participate in Peace Day! Consider creating a public or private activity related to peace, spreading the word about Peace Day, or attending an event in your community. In 1984, the Minute of Silence at 12:00 noon in each time zone was inaugurated in commemoration of the annual Day of Peace. This year on Friday, Sept 21 be part of a "Peace Wave" of silence around the world. For additional activity suggestions and information, check out this [website](#).



"Peace begins with a smile." ~ *Mother Teresa*

"Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and cooperation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace." ~ *President Dwight D. Eisenhower*

### **SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### **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](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org). **This is your OCWM monies at work.**



**Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches (& parents & teens & bosses & teachers & workers & committee members & pastors & everybody else) will be held on Sat, September 29 from 9 am - 3:30 pm at St. Paul UCC in Waterloo.**

Presented by Rev. Mike Southcombe, ISC Conflict Mediation Team. Study and workshop resources from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

You will learn:

- What personality "type" you are
- What stress does to your personality
- How to recognize and communicate with other personality types
- How to talk so that others will listen
- How to listen to others and change the way they talk to you
- How to deal with conflict from a biblical, healing perspective
- Collaborative skills/Problem solving skills
- Effective Communication skills
- Effective Listening skills
- The 10 Commandments of Leading an Effective Church Meeting

Cost includes workshop materials and lunch. \$20/person or \$30/couple (shared workbook). Register by calling 618-939-7123 or email [linda@stpaulonline.org](mailto:linda@stpaulonline.org). Registration deadline is September 22.



"12 Ways to Support Disaster Survivors Recover Through UCC Disaster Ministries" is now available. Click [here](#).

#### THE PAINTER'S BACK

Looking at the peak of fall,  
Spreading o'er all the land,  
There's no doubt to it at all  
The painter is God's hand.

First, we see a splash of red  
Tipping trees of green.  
Colors splatter over head  
Painting Master's scene.

Spots of yellow dot the earth,  
Brushed between the stately pine.  
Golden tips to show it's worth  
Created in the Maker's mind.

Strokes of orange, maroon and brown,  
Add chartreuse, crimson, black.  
Painted leaves caress the ground.  
Look out, World! The Painter's back.

© Lynnette Schuepbach, 1992



**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](#). Hotel block ended Sept 6. Annual Assembly registration deadline is Sept 23.**

# FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday Oct 7  
from 11-5

## DuBois Center



### It's QUILT time!

The countdown continues... less than 4 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 (twin); 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 photos and [tickets](#) are available to assist. You are also invited to sell tickets and/or 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 quilt.

### 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. It's not too late to get a **Bake Date** on the calendar. 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

### 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, family-friendly activities 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





**WRANGLE & RIDE  
Saturday, Nov 3**

Join our equestrian team on Saturday, November 3 from 9am - 5pm for a full day of fun with the DuBois Center herd! Designed for both beginner and experienced riders, this is a horse-intensive day of instruction - tackle grooming, tacking, riding, and other horse-related activities. Beginners will be introduced to basic skills, while experienced riders work on more advanced options. The cost for this event is \$60 with lunch included. Register by October 13 and save \$5. Final registration deadline is October 20 - if space is still available. Register [online](#) or click [here](#) for a flyer and reservation form. Questions? Contact DuBois Center 618-787-2202 or by email at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org).

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**MOTHER &  
DAUGHTER  
RETREAT**

**October 12-14**



**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE  
Friday - Sept 21**

Check out our Fall Activities [brochure](#) for more information. Register [online](#) or click [here](#) for a flyer and registration form. For more information contact DuBois Center at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.



**FALL WORK DAYS  
Saturdays - Oct 6 & Nov 3**

It's a great excuse to get outside, stretch your muscles and 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](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.



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



*CHHSM News*  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

**Eden Theological Seminary has added a new LIFE at Eden class called "UCC History & Polity."** The class will be held at Eden Seminary on Sat, Oct 6, from 9 am - 4 pm.

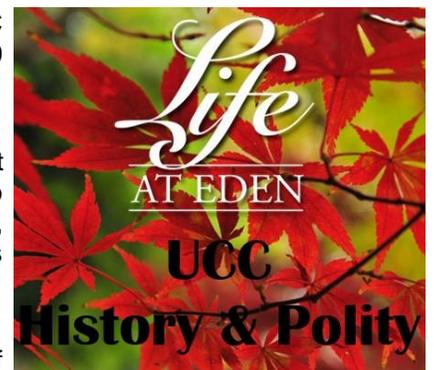
**Class Description**

This intensive class will provide an overview of the predecessor denominations that shaped the United Church of Christ's style of congregational governance. It will also look at how General Synod functions, explore some theological foundations, discuss how the authorization process works, and review educational resources available from the denomination. Dr. Jill Baker will be the class instructor.

**Who Should Take this Class?**

This class is designed for people seeking licensing, dual standing or privilege of call. It is also appropriate for anyone who wants to learn more about the United Church of Christ and who have no need for ministerial authorization. This LIFE course is a single day format. It will count as one credit in LIFE.

For more information and to register for the event, click [here](#).





### 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 Tuesdays, October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 27, December 4 from 2 pm - 4 pm at the Cambridge House of Maryville. 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

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.



**Eden Seminary presents the Schmiechen Lecture. This year, Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney joins us to talk about "Womanist Biblical Translation and Hermeneutics."** Everyone is welcome to attend this free event in the Wehrli Chapel on Friday, October 5, from 10AM to 3PM.

Dr. Gafney will address her translation of biblical text as a womanist practice focusing on her recent work. "Translation is the only means non-Hebrew readers have to access the Scriptures of Israel in their own tongues. Yet the act of translation and principles that govern an individual translation are frequently invisible to many readers..." (Womanist Midrash, p 281).

The Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. She is the author of *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah* and of *The Throne*, a commentary on Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah, *Daughters of Miriam: Women Prophets in Ancient Israel* and co-editor of *The Peoples' Bible* and *The Peoples' Companion to the Bible*. She is an Episcopal priest canonically resident in the Diocese of Pennsylvania and licensed in the Diocese of Fort Worth, and a former Army Chaplain. A former member of the Dorshei Derekh Reconstructionist Minyan of the Germantown Jewish Center in Philadelphia, she has co-taught courses with and for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Seminary in Wyncote, PA. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

#### 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](http://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.

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](mailto:jabaker5@aol.com), for a copy of our forest management plan. Members of the Outdoor Ministries Team, Finance Ministries Team, Property Committee, and the Conference Council are especially invited to attend.

**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](#). Thanks.

### Region 2

**Friedens UCC in Hecker will hold Fall Hecker BBQ on Sat, Sept 22 from 11 am - 2 pm at the Red Bud IGA.** Carry outs only. Menu includes pork steaks and bratwurst, potato salad, cole slaw and baked beans.

### 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 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.

**Godfrey Congregational Church will hold a Fall Rummage Sale on Fri, Oct 19 from 8 am - 2 pm and Sat, Oct 20 from 8 am - 1 pm.** Proceeds go to their Missions and General Funds. Contact 618-466-3640.

### Region 5

**Highland Evangelical UCC will host a Sausage Dinner on Sun, Sept 30 from 11 am - 2 pm in the dining room and from 11 am - 5 pm in the drive-thru option.** Adults \$11; Children ages 4 - 11 \$6; Children ages 3 and under Free. All drive-thru meals are \$11.

### Region 8

**Marissa Friedens UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sat, Oct 6 from 3 pm - 7 pm.** Proceeds are designated for the church's new awning. All are welcome.

**On Sun, October 14, Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Retiring Massachusetts Conference Minister, is preaching and speaking on the topic of Environmental Justice at the Lebanon St. Paul UCC at the 8 am and 10:30 am services.** Between services, he will facilitate a conversation on *The Church and Environmental Justice* from 9:15 am - 10:15 am at the church.

**Rev. Dr. Jim Antal** is the retiring UCC Massachusetts Conference Minister, a denominational leader, climate activist, author and public theologian. He

### Region 9

**St. Paul UCC in Belleville will hold a Cornhole Classic on Sat, Sept 29 from noon - 4 pm at the Swansea Moose.** Cost: \$40/team of two players or \$20/person. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. Hot dogs, brats and chips available for purchase. Cash bar. Family friendly event to benefit St. Paul UCC in Belleville. All are welcome.

**Belleville St. Paul UCC presents Crafty Mania on Sat, Sept 22 from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at the church.** If you are a scrapbooker, card maker, jewelry maker or like to sew, you may spend the entire day doing what you like to do. Adults: \$30 with lunch or \$25 without lunch. Cost includes snacks, vendors, attendance prizes, reserved space. Raffle. Registration deadline is Sept 10. Contact Diana at [dmhaar@charter.net](mailto:dmhaar@charter.net) or call 618-233-3303.

**Trinity UCC in Belleville will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween/Trivia Spooktacular on Sat, Oct 20. Doors open at 5:15 pm and play starts at 6 pm.** Family-friendly. Bring your favorite spooky snacks. Beer &

**Fieldon UCC will hold its Annual Fall Supper on Sat, Sept 22 from 4 pm - 8 pm.** Menu includes All-you-can-eat fried buffalo fish, roast beef, whole potatoes in brown gravy, slaw with homemade dressing, green beans with bacon, homemade potato salad, homemade applesauce, relish tray, homemade pies & cakes, coffee and iced tea. Family style. Adults \$12; Children 6 - 12 \$6; Children 5 and under Free. Carry outs available. Quilt raffle and country store.

serves as Special Advisor on Climate Change to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. **Antal's recent book, *Climate Change, Climate World*** was featured on Earth Day 2018 in the Chicago Tribune. Click [here](#) for a flyer with more information.

wine permitted but not served. Costume contests. Special round for kids 12 and under. Advanced reservations: \$5 + 2 food items for adults; Children 12 and under admitted for 2 food items. At the door reservations: Adults \$10; Children 12 & under \$5. Proceeds benefit the Belleville Community Interfaith Food Pantry. Contact 618-233-2941 or click [here](#).