The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference....
Annual Schlachfest Held Despite Wetness
By Carol Mercer

On September 9, Trinity UCC of Biddleborn held its sausage supper even though heavy rains had inundated the area the day before. There were still children's activities; bands still played; a country store still was in operation; and all aspects of the usual Schlachfest were in action. Straw was strategically placed and golf carts shuttled people to and from parking spots on the road, since the usual parking places were too muddy.

This fall Trinity UCC of Biddleborn and Holy Ghost UCC of Darmstadt are celebrating special anniversaries. Trinity will be 140 years old and Holy Ghost will be 175 years old. The beautiful cemetery in Biddleborn is the final resting place for many of the area's earlier residents. People come from a wide geographic area to help or attend the Schlachfest event, which benefits the cemetery.

On September 23, Rev. Dr. Don Wagner will be the guest speaker at Holy Ghost. His family has farmed in the area for at least five generations. Many of those celebrating the anniversaries of Trinity and Holy Ghost have deep roots in southwestern Illinois.

On October 14 at Trinity, some former pastors will take part in the worship service at 10 am. Dinner will follow the church service. The two churches have been holding services together and using their church buildings on a rotational basis. They welcome any visitors and those who want to share the special anniversaries.

It takes many workers to put on the annual Trinity UCC Schlachfest in Biddleborn that feeds over a thousand customers. Photo shows some of the workers at the Schlachfest (l to r) Sue Triefenbach, June Vandiver, June Pflasterer, and Kim Weekly. photo by Carol Mercer

Help Clean Up Uni-Pres Kindercottage's Neighborhood
The City of East St. Louis has finally agreed to tear down the “falling down house” across the street from Uni-Pres Kindercottage. The city is holding Operation Clean Sweep on Sat, Sept 29 and is asking for volunteers to help. They will arrive at 6:00 am, be welcomed at 7:15 am and begin Operation Clean Sweep at 7:45 am. An Appreciation Celebration will be held at 1:00 pm.

Kindercottage needs volunteers to remove the weeds and other debris. Volunteers do not have to arrive at 6 am but an early start would be good. Please bring your own clean-up equipment.

Kindercottage has been waiting for a long time for this property to be cleaned up and are very grateful that this eyesore will finally be gone. Please help them improve the appearance of the Uni-Pres Kindercottage neighborhood. If you have questions, please call Brenda at 618-874-6505.

Get Hands Dirty
This morning I was listening to a news story about the devastation and destruction Hurricane Florence caused in the Carolinas, especially over this past weekend. The story focused on how local churches and mosques have played a vital role in providing physical and spiritual refuge and shelter from the storm.
Many of these houses of worship are challenging their members to take an active role in sharing love and hope with neighbors whose homes are now awash with up to five feet of standing water. On Sunday, instead of encouraging worshippers simply to gather for prayer, many faith leaders had arranged for members to take part in organized rescue efforts.

As one local church pastor who serves in New Bern, North Carolina poignantly said, “We express our love for God most tangibly when we love our neighbor. It’s easy to say, ‘I love God,’” but put some boots on, get your hands dirty, express your love for God by helping your neighbor.” Over the weekend, in that particular community, ordinary people of faith helped rescue over 40 people that the local police and rescue departments would not have been able to reach otherwise.

Jesus’ call to mission and ministry is the same. Consider the ways in which Jesus taught and modeled for the disciples what it means to live out one’s love for God. It is not by simply staying in Jerusalem and meeting in the temple for study and discourse. Rather it is about being out in the dusty streets of Capernaum, the lakeshore of Gennesaret or the hillsides of Bethsaida.

It was about putting their sandals on and getting their hands dirty. It was expressing their love of God tangibly by loving their neighbor in offering food, shelter, healing and welcome. The common thread in Jesus’ encounters with others is that he first meets their basic human needs before attending to their spiritual needs. Jesus shared the Good News of God’s extravagant welcome, unconditional love and unending grace in this way. In many ways, this is a Christ-centered plan for evangelism.

Effective and Christ-centered evangelism is not about marketing and advertising strategies, door to door campaigns, signage, expanding the parking lot or renovating our fellowship spaces. No, I believe the most effective and Christ-centered way we can and are called to evangelize is to share the good news of God’s steadfast love by caring for our neighbors.

More specifically, we cannot simply love our neighbor in the abstract, from a distance, but rather we must care for our neighbors by getting to know them, their stories and their needs and to respond accordingly. It is easier to simply proclaim we love God. It is more difficult and more faithful to care for our neighbors. Many times this means we must “put our boots on” and “get dirty.”

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA’S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- **September 23**
  - Participating in the Farewell Service for Rev. Lisa Hart at St. Peter’s UCC, Red Bud.
- **October 14**
  - Preaching at St. Paul UCC, Carlinville for their church anniversary celebration
- **October 21**
  - Preaching at St. John’s UCC, Breese for their church anniversary celebration
- **October 28**
  - Preaching at Zion UCC, Marion for their church anniversary celebration

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.
- 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. Registration deadline is September 22.

**Hurricane Florence - Ways to Help**

- Pray for all impacted by disasters including those directly impacted, their families and friends. Pray for all those involved as first responders such as fire, police, and other emergency management professionals and volunteers.
- **DO NOT** collect "stuff" and/or attempt to ship material items to the impacted region(s) (only if you have a request from someone or an organization in that region). Click [here](#) to learn why cash is best. Click [here](#) to donate online.
- **DO** assemble Emergency Cleanup Buckets, Personal Hygiene Kits or School Kits. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Local drop-off for these kits is Saturday, October 13 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Immanuel UCC, 221 Church Rd., Ferguson, MO. 63135. Contact Krescence Beck at 314-521-7324 if you have any questions.
- Click [here](#) to download “12 Ways To Support Disaster Survivors” for more ways to help.
- Financial donations are accepted through your local United Church of Christ Congregation and through the Illinois South Conference Office. Click [here](#) for the ISC website.

**First Puerto Rico volunteers focus on roof repairs**

A contingent of almost a dozen United Church of Christ volunteers - teenagers to retirees - went to Puerto Rico the first week of August to help get a number of homes under roof. They were one of the first UCC volunteer teams donating time and talents to the people of the island nation in a recovery mission that will span years. And UCC Disaster Ministries is in it for the long haul. Read [more](#).

**On Sept 30, St. Paul UCC in Lebanon will celebrate its 150th anniversary at 3 pm.** Dinner will follow the service in Fellowship Hall. (RSVP required for dinner.) Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Seminary will be the guest speaker. Buffet-style dinner of fried chicken, roast beef, potato, salad, vegetables, dessert, and beverages. Adults $10; Children 5 - 10 $5. Deadline for dinner reservation is Sept 23. Contact St. Paul's Church Office at 618-537-4991 to make your reservation or for more information. St. Paul has commissioned a new piece of music by composer Lloyd Larsen specifically for its 150th anniversary and the Chancel and Bell Choirs will present the piece during the Service of Worship! All are invited to join in the celebration of this faith-filled congregation.

**On September 30th, St. John UCC in Granite City (2901 Nameoki Rd) will hold a tour of their historic cemetery (founded 1863) entitled "Voices of Their Times".** Performers will be located at ten of the gravesites and will share their lives as well as interesting historical information about the world and specifically about the Granite City area. The doors open at 12:30 pm with food for purchase, and 12 community groups will have historical displays for viewing. The tours begin at 1 pm and the last one will leave at 3 pm (in 10 minute intervals). Tickets are $10 in advance; $12 at the door; and children 5-12 will be $5. Contact Betty Meszaros at 618-451-1968 to order advanced tickets or for more information.
Friedens UCC-Irvington is hosting a Friday Night Hymn sing on Fri, Nov 2 at 7 pm. They invite any groups who would like to come and lead some music to please join them. You may call the church office to be included in the fun! Call 618- 249-8445.

HELP PROMOTE
Fall Festival & DuBois Center
DuBois Center's Annual Fall Festival is just around the corner and your help is needed to spread the word! Date: Sunday, October 7. Time: 11am - 5pm. There will be food, music, crafters and artisans, hayrides, horses, boat tours, crafts for kids and more - something for the whole family! Here's what you can do to help promote:
- Post flyers around your church and community - B&W, color.
- Print and use one of these pieces as a bulletin insert or handout.
- Make announcements during services and meetings.
- Like and Share our Facebook event.
- Put this link to our Fall Festival web page on your web site and in bulletins.
- Promote the event on your church’s outdoor SIGN BOARD.
- Submit information to your local community newspaper or newsletter.
- Make it a CHURCH EVENT! Promote attendance and/or volunteering as a church or church group.
Thanks in advance for your support of DuBois Center and our annual Fall Festival!

NEEDED: Tees & Tanks
Are your dresser drawers packed with old t-shirts? For ONE MORE WEEK you can recycle t-shirts and support DuBois Center at the same time! One of the featured crafts in the Kidz Korner at Fall Festival is cool bags made out of recycled shirts, and we need your old shirts. SPECs: sizes youth large - adult large, decent condition, no significant armpit stains, kid-appropriate logos and wording. Due to the prep work involved, shirts are needed IN ADVANCE, by September 25. If you can, please deliver to the following locations or contact Norma Borgmann at 618-533-1658 (home), 618-292-4617 (cell) or email for assistance.
Drop-Off Locations:
Sun, Sept 23 only: Grantfork UCC at Pre-Annual Meeting, 3-5 pm
September 4-25:DuBois Center, Highland - ISC Office, Waterloo - St. Paul UCC

The Circle of (Camp) Life
This summer - in addition to the chaplains, nurses, and Sunday Welcome Team - 26 volunteers contributed 21 weeks of counseling and over six weeks of program support. They could be found all over camp - including at the barn, the craft grotto, and the office. Many of these volunteers are former campers, staff from the past decade, or both! This cycle of camper-volunteer-staff-volunteer helps to keep fun traditions alive as new traditions develop. Paired with ideas from new members of DuBois Center’s family, we create a camping experience that is uniquely organic and uniquely DuBois. Our volunteer counselors and program folks also help to inject fresh energy and ideas even in the most mind-numbing heat. THANK YOU for all the wonderful things you do for our campers - we love seeing old friends and making new ones!
URGENT: Pallets Needed
We've got hay, but we need 50 more sturdy wooden pallets. It's all about healthy horses and saving dollars. Storing hay off the ground keeps it out of the mud. Drier bales mean less mold growth. Moldy hay is not healthy for horses. In addition, mold contributes to large amounts of waste. Keeping the hay drier also helps to retain its nutritional content throughout the year. If you have or can find any new or gently used sturdy pallets, contact Scott Kuether at sekuether21@gmail.com. THANKS!

Donations of rolls of ribbon are needed for Kidz Korner. For this particular project, Christmas colors and patterns will work best, but all are welcome. Specs: 3/8-7/8” width. Ribbon may be dropped off at the same locations as t-shirts to be donated. You can also bring rolls directly camp.

WORLD PEACE DAY
This Friday, Sept 21
The International Day of Peace 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. In 1984, the Minute of Silence at 12:00 noon in each time zone was inaugurated in commemoration of the annual Day of Peace. Join us THIS FRIDAY, Sept 21 and be part of a “Peace Wave” of silence around the world. For more information and additional activity suggestions, 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

Upscale Resale and Silent Auction Donations
What do stylish purses and accessories, gift baskets, classic toys and holiday decorations have in common? All are items needed for the Fall Festival Upscale Resale Shop and Silent Auction. Please see the attached flyers for details. Donations must have a sale value of at least $5 each and be clean; new, nearly new OR classic; easy to carry and appealing. All proceeds support the ministry of DuBois Center. To donate items, contact Norma Borgmann at 618-292-4617 or email. Items may also be brought directly to DuBois Center on Saturday, Oct 6 or by 10 am on Oct 7. Thanks in advance for your help and donations!

MOMS & DAUGHTER - October 13-15
Early Bird Deadline: This Friday, Sept 21
NOW IS THE TIME - Don't miss out! Enjoy a playful, faith-based weekend with a special girl or woman in your life. This retreat will be packed with engaging activities - inside and out, inspiring God times and wonderful fellowship. There is also the option to just sit back and relax, enjoy a leisurely hike and read books - together. All ages are welcome, but most activities are geared for girls and women age six and older. There's still time to sign-up, but the deadline is quickly approaching. Register by Friday, Sept 21 and save $10 per person. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept 28. Check out this flyer and RSVP form or go to www.DuBoisCenter.org and register online.

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 Tuesdays, October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 27, December 4 from 2 pm - 4 pm.

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 Tuesdays, October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 27, December 4 from 2 pm - 4 pm.
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.

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 Dorshrii 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.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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/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.

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, 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.
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.

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.

Fieddon 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.

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 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.

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.


Concordia UCC in Belleville is holding a Trivia Night on October 20 at The Quail Club on Concordia Church Road in Belleville. Trivia begins at 7 pm and doors open at 6:30. $15 a person which includes Mulligans and Survivor Round. Sweet Shop and Silent Auction. They prefer table reservations by Oct 6,
Salad Luncheon from 11 am - 1 pm. Luncheon tickets sold in advance and at the door $10. Carry-outs available. Delivered meals available if ordered by contacting 618-466-6077 or email by Fri, Sept 28.

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. 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.

but walk ins are welcome. Cash bar. Bring snacks.