

Weekly Connection

For the Week of September 30 - October 6, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

The PERFECT Pastors

As you may or may not know, the United Church of Christ has been working on an exciting new computer program. Now, I don't know all the specifics of the technology, but apparently there is a new algorithm that takes all of the qualities most churches have identified as what would qualify a clergyperson to be a perfect pastor and they match these qualities with all ordained clergy.

The following are the top eight characteristics local churches identified as qualities a perfect pastor should possess.

1. The perfect pastor is one who will be able to please everyone in the church and meets each church member's expectations.
2. The perfect pastor speaks the truth, stands up for injustice, but never steps on anyone's toes.
3. The perfect pastor preaches an inspiring sermon every Sunday that makes you cry, laugh, and think deeply about everyday life while still managing to get you out of worship under an hour.
4. The perfect pastor works from 8 in the morning until 10 at night, doing everything from preaching sermons to sweeping.
5. The perfect pastor is 36 years old, and has been preaching 40 years.
6. The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with the youth, and spends all his time with the senior citizens.
7. The perfect pastor smiles and has a keen sense of humor, all the while keeping a straight face that shows serious dedication to all tasks.
8. The perfect pastor makes 15 calls a day on church members, spends every free moment evangelizing to non-members, and is always found in the church office when needed.

Here is the exciting thing...using the software, we were able to find the perfect pastor...unfortunately, that pastor burnt out and died unexpectedly at the age of 32.

By now, I hope you know that I made this up to illustrate a point. So please do not go looking on the Illinois South Conference website for this program or call us at the

Conference office to inquire how your church might utilize this software.

{special}
THANKS
to our
pastors

What I am hoping to illustrate is there is some truth in the fact that many people mistakenly think that a perfect pastor might exist. Yet, we all know there are no perfect pastors. However, sometimes we have high and unrealistic expectations of our pastors.

Pastors often bear the weight of these unrealistic expectations, when in truth,

pastors are only people who have said yes to the nudging of the Holy Spirit and have answered the call of God to do the work and ministry of parish ministry. They share the same struggles, disappointments and challenges as we all do.

However, much like other people-oriented vocations, ministry does not always provide measureable standards of accomplishment or appreciation. Yet, a word of encouragement and an expression of gratitude can go a long way in reenergizing those who have given so much of themselves in service to the church.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. I strongly encourage the churches of Illinois South Conference to take this next month as an opportunity to show gratitude toward the church leaders and staff who unselfishly (not perfectly) serve your church. While, there are no perfect pastors, there are certainly many pastors who have and continue to influence your life and faith. October is a great time to encourage your pastors and to say "thank you."

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

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 30 - Oct 6, 2018
Churches & Pastors

- Okawville St. Paul UCC,
Pastor Cherie (Michael) Stolze
- Okawville St. Peter's UCC,
Rev. Jeffrey (Sara) Schwab

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.**

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Jean Carmean, 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.

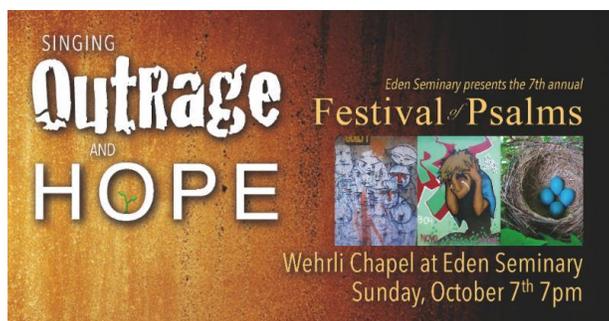
- Keep Rev. Paul and Marilyn Thompson in your prayers as each of them deals with health issues. Rev. Thompson is retired, but serves on the ISC Recruitment Committee. Cards may be sent to them at 910 Circle Drive, Red Bud, IL 62278.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference....

Central City Zion UCC will celebrate its 160th Anniversary on Sunday, October 14, 2018 at the Central City Lions Park Shelter. Worship begins at 9:30 am and a meal will follow the service. RSVP to 618-532-1751 or 618-322-2266. All are welcome to attend and help celebrate its history.

The Illinois Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Policy Forum will be held on Monday, October 1 at the Greater Alton Church. Our goal is life. They are doing everything they can to prevent deaths by suicide and/or overdoses, and they want you to be part of this important conversation. At the meeting, you will hear from national, state and regional subject matter experts about suicide prevention, and they will address the opioid crisis. There will be ample time for audience discussion. You are invited to share from your subject matter expertise. Click [here](#) for a flyer listing all of the speakers. Click [here](#) for a way to participate in a meaningful visual tribute to remember loved ones who died prematurely. If you are affiliated with a nonprofit, there is also an exhibitor [application](#) for your review. It is sponsored by Gift of Voice in Edwardsville.



On Sun, Oct 7, Eden Theological Seminary will host the 7th annual "Festival of Psalms" concert at 7pm in the Press Building's Wehrli Chapel at Eden Seminary. This unique musical event's theme is "Singing Outrage and Hope," centering on music from the Biblical psalms in a variety of styles like blues, choral, folk, gospel and hymns. The Festival of Psalms will be held in conjunction with the St. Louis CROP Walk, which combats poverty and hunger, locally and globally. For more information about the CROP Walk, click [here](#). The concert is free and open to everyone.

Other featured musicians this year include Eden Seminary Choir, James Stone Goodman, Christopher Grundy, Zipporah Lee, Eliza Lynn, Jacob Nault, Camille Pruvost, Wendy Reynolds, Will Soll, Paul Vasile, Peace UCC chancel choir and Webster United Methodist choir.



Harvey anniversary finds UCC hard at work in Texas

As the Texas Gulf Coast marks the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, one of the most costly storms in U.S. history, the UCC Disaster Ministries team and partners in the area are preparing for a busy fall season of rebuilding work.

"Recovery throughout the Harvey-impacted region will be a multi-year process requiring the convergence of volunteers, donated funds, local, state and federal resources," UCC Disaster Ministries Executive Zach Wolgemuth said. "UCC Disaster Ministries is and has been at the forefront of recovery in Port Arthur, Texas. As we mark the one-year anniversary of Harvey, our commitment to the area remains. Read [more](#)."

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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 Mon-Fri, Oct 8-11 from 9 am - noon or Sat, Oct 13 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Immanuel UCC, 221 Church Rd., Ferguson, MO. 63135. Contact Krescene 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.
- Contact Priscilla Self, Disaster Relief Coordinator, at pjj48@hotmail.com or 618-318-0083.



DuBois Center News

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



BULLETIN INSERTS

Help spread the word about Fall Festival and DuBois Center fall activities with bulletin inserts. This year there are two copy-ready options. To get the word out about Fall Festival, use this [insert](#). For double the impact, run this [one](#) back to back and promote Fall Fest and all of DuBois Center's other great fall activities. Please share these with your congregation and your community! To receive paper originals by USPS, contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

QUILTS - Don't miss out!!

The countdown continues... less than 2 weeks till the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival and the much anticipated Quilt Drawing. This year, three beautiful and unique quilts have been donated. One is a salute to our 50 states (twin); one has an elegant diamond-star pattern (queen); and one has fun blocks in shades of brown and gold (queen). 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. There is still time to buy or sell tickets. Tickets and payments must be returned to DuBois Center by noon the day of Fall Festival - Sunday, Oct 7.



Fall Festival VOLUNTEERS Needed!

Calling all church groups, individuals, families, Scout troops and youth needing service hours - lend a hand for a couple hours or for the full day! Fall Festival is DuBois Center's largest one-day event of the year and would not be possible without the efforts of scores of volunteers. There are so many ways to help - prep and serve food, paint faces, supervise crafts and activities in the Kidz Korner, catch pontoon boats, walk horses in the

SWEET TREATS

Looking for an excuse to bake? The Sweet Shoppe at Fall Festival is still in need of donations. Each dollar raised in this area goes directly to provide scholarships which enable children and youth from families that are struggling financially to attend camp. This team is doing a great job, but they need YOUR help! So apron up and bake on: cookies, cakes, snacks and more are welcome! For more information, check out and share this [flyer](#) or text/call Melissa at 314-440-6646 or Kristen at 618-567-6863.



arena, take tickets, assist guests in the Upscale Resale Shop or serve as a cashier. Sound like fun? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

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

Get outside, stretch your muscles and make a difference! 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 those attending. 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.



MOTHER - DAUGHTER RETREAT

**Deadline:
Friday, Sept 28**

Time is running out, but you can still register for the annual DuBois Center Mother-Daughter Retreat, October 12-14. This event is open to all the great women and girls in your life. Escape for a weekend of fun, laughter, music, crafts, movement, joy-filled worship as well as favorite traditional camp activities. Click [here](#) for a flyer with registration form or save time and register [online](#). For more information contact the DuBois Center office at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.



WRANGLE & RIDE - Saturday, Nov 3

Love horses? If you are age 12 or older, join us on Saturday, Nov 3 from 9am - 5pm for a 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. Families are welcome. Register by October 13 and save \$5. Final registration deadline is Oct 20 - if space is still available. Register [online](#) or click [here](#) for a flyer and reservation form. Questions? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.



FALL ACTIVITIES at DuBois Center

Hot off the presses - click [here](#) for our fall activities brochure and event registration form. Make time to take in the beauty of the season at DuBois Center. From work days to retreats and our annual Fall Festival, there's something for everyone!

- Sept 24 1st Day of Nature's [Classroom](#)
- Oct 6 Fall Festival [Work Day](#)
- October 7 FALL FESTIVAL**
- Oct 12-14 Mother-Daughter [Retreat](#)
- Nov 3 Work [Day](#)
Wrangle & [Ride](#)
- Dec 1 Annual "Thank You" Christmas Party



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 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. Remaining session date: Oct 18 from 10:30 am - 12 pm. Session is free.

Come hear how St. John's Community Care is helping families caring for an aging loved one metamorphose and transition into a place of peace and a new normal at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville's Mission Moment Service on Sun, Sept 30 at 9 am. A celebratory reception will immediately follow the service in their Atrium.

St. John's Community Care has received a grant through The Retirement Research Foundation to support an early memory loss program called Brain Wave. The Brain Wave program will identify specific goals for individuals attending the program and help them to achieve those benchmarks. The goals will include things like building self-confidence, fostering independence, along with mental and physical fitness goals. The sessions will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays starting on October 10 from 10 am - 2 pm at St. John's Community Care located at 222 Goethe Avenue in Collinsville. Click [here](#) to read more. Click [here](#) for a flyer to post in your church.

Deaconess Nurse Ministry will provide 700 free flu shots to people in need over the next few months. Vaccines were graciously donated by Mercy. Now, we need funds to purchase the needles, alcohol wipes, band aids, gloves, and other supplies to administer the vaccines. These supplies cost \$3,500, and we've raised almost \$1,000 so far. Click [here](#) to donate.



What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Vegetable Gardens

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.

Region 1

DuQuoin St. John's UCC will hold its Sausage Supper on Sat, Nov 3 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Dinners and pre-ordered raw sausage available. Raw sausage pickup on Thurs, Nov 1 and Sat, Nov 3. \$5/pound = 4 links. Contact 618-542-3431.

Region 5

On Sun, Oct 7 Friedens UCC in Troy will host its annual sausage dinner from 11:30 am until 5:30 pm. Carry-outs and curbside will be available until 6:00 pm. Dine-in, carryout and curbside service available. Phone in your order to 618-667-6535 to pre-order curbside service. Menu: all-you-can-eat grilled pork sausage, mashed potatoes, gravy, applesauce, sauerkraut, green beans, dessert and beverage. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 10 \$5; Children 4 and under Free. All carry-outs and curbside \$10. 50/50 tickets. For more information, call 618-667-6535.

Region 8

Trenton St. John UCC will hold its 69th Annual Wurst Markt on Sun, Oct 7 from 11 am - 6 pm. Country Store. Homemade Applesauce and Pork Sausage Sale (10 am - 6 pm). Quilt raffle. Drive thru orders available by calling 618-224-9828 to preorder after 11 am. Adults \$10; Children 10 and under \$4; All carry-outs \$10.

Region 2

Red Bud St. Peter UCC will hold its All-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner on Sat, Oct 13 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Menu includes spaghetti, Rich and Charlie's salad, bread, desserts and drinks. Adults \$11; Children 5-12 \$4; Children 4 and under Free. Carry-outs \$11. Country store.

On Sept 30, St. Paul UCC in Lebanon will celebrate its 150th anniversary at 3 pm. Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Seminary will be the guest speaker. 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.

Region 3

On September 30th, St. John UCC in Granite City (2901 Nameoki Rd) will hold a tour of their historic cemetery (founded in 1863) entitled "Voices of Their Times". Performers will be located

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.

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.

St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will hold its Wurst-Markt on Thurs, Oct 18 from 11 am - 7 pm. Buffet-style menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, butter beans, peas, mashed potatoes & gravy, applesauce, bread, pie, coffee, tea or milk. Adults \$11; Children 6-12 years \$5; Children 5 and under Free. Raw sausage orders available for \$3.50/pound. Call to order to 618-344-2526 by Oct 12. Pick up on Oct 17 from 11 am - 6 pm. Christmas Bazaar.

Region 4

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.

Godfrey Evangelical UCC will host its Fall Festival on Thurs, Oct 4 from 9 am - 2 pm. The Bazaar includes a themed basket raffle, bakery, books, bangles and more. 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.

Region 7

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.

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.

New Athens St. John UCC will hold its annual Wurstmarkt from 11 am until 2 pm on Sun, Sept 30. Menu includes all you care to eat fresh, whole-hog pork sausage with all the fixings, along with drink and dessert. Adults \$12; children twelve and under \$6.

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. **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.

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.

The 7th Annual Halloween Trivia Spooktacular will be held at Belleville Trinity UCC on Sat, Oct 20. Doors open 5:15 pm; play starts at 6 pm. Family-friendly. Bring your favorite spooky snacks. Beer & wine permitted but not served. Costume contests. Rounds for kids. Reservations in advance: \$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](#).

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

O'Fallon UCC will hold its WurstMarkt on Thurs, Oct 18 from 3:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Menu includes pork sausage, mashed potatoes, gravy, sauerkraut, country green beans, applesauce, beverage and dessert. Butcher Shop for raw and cooked pork sausage, liver sausage, ribs, back bone and tenderloin. Crafts and Country Store. Adults \$10; Kids 4-12 \$6; Kids 3 and under Free. Carry out available.