

Weekly Connection

For the Week of October 7 - October 13, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

RENEWING OUR MINDS:

A SERIES OF PAYING ATTENTION TO OUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Romans 12:2)

--written by Rev. Shana Johnson

For the next few weeks I will sharing with you something I wrote a couple of years ago. As I contemplated some of the spiritual maladies we all face, I decided to write a sermon/study series I entitled "Renewing Our Minds" in which I named spiritual disorders and how you can identify them in yourselves and in the faith community.

I created a sort of fact sheet that you might find as a pamphlet in the waiting room of a doctor's office or as a page on WebMD. These are meant to be a tongue-in-cheek way of not only offering ourselves the grace and humor to be honest about our spiritual struggles, but also as a way to begin a wider conversation about those things that exist and we see in our personal lives and in the lives of our churches, yet rarely speak of openly.

My hope in sharing them with you is to spark some reflection and conversation.

SPRITUAL AMNESIA: Forgetting Who and Whose We Are

Spiritual Amnesia derived from the word Greek *Ἀμνησία* which refers to memory. Spiritual Amnesia is a condition in which our memory of who we are (*children of God*) and who we ultimately belong to (*God alone*) is disturbed.

Spiritual Amnesia is usually the result of a crisis situation or a defense mechanism in which one has justified certain beliefs or behaviors not in harmony with one's spiritual nature.

One of the most harmful effects of this type of amnesia is the inability to imagine the future.

What Are the Symptoms of Spiritual Amnesia?

The most common symptoms are:

Long periods of denial about the existence or presence of God

An inability to recall the presence of God in past events of one's own life or others

Self diagnosis

You may suffer from Spiritual Amnesia:

If you have convinced yourself that your life belongs to you and you alone.

If you believe that your destiny or your future is the result of your own doing alone.

If you avoid opportunities to explore or get in touch with the presence of the Divine in your life.

Prevention

Unlike other forms of amnesia, *spiritual amnesia can be resolved immediately through prayer or any spiritual discipline that facilitates a reconnection between yourself and God.*

SPRITUAL AMNESIA: Forgetting Who and Whose We Are

Step 1: Begin with the Big Questions

Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose?

- In the Christian tradition, one of the ways we use to teach about our spiritual nature is through the catechisms.
- In the Westminster Shorter Catechism, the very first question that is asked is "What is the chief end (purpose) of humankind?"
- The answer given is "Humankind's chief end (purpose) is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever."

Step 2: Remember who God calls you to be

Remember that God doesn't call us to be perfect, only faithful.
As Morton Kelsey once wrote, "The church is not a museum for saints but a

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

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[St. John's Community Care](#)

[St. Paul's Home](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

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Pray for...

Prayer list for Oct 7 - Oct 13, 2018 Churches & Pastors

- Pana United in Faith Church, Rev. Joel (Emily) Jackle-Hugh
- Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Cynthia (Rev. Kerry) Bean

hospital for sinners."

Step 3: Let go and let God

Learn to let God take the lead in your life

We do not always have to be in control, God has not asked us to be. All that God has asked of us is our sincere, honest devotion.

SPRITITUAL AMNESIA: Forgetting Who and Whose We Are

Food for thought

Mother Teresa in her writings and in her life's work would often reference a poem that she hung on the wall of the orphanage she founded in Calcutta. Its source is unknown.

"ANYWAY"

*People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends & some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.*

People may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It is never between you and them anyway.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

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.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

St. Mark's UCC in DuBois celebrated its 142nd anniversary. After worship, thirty-two members of the congregation gathered at the Terry Deering Center in DuBois to feast, celebrate, share the past and look a bit at their future.



Retired Pastor

- Rev. Elmer and Linda Bowman, Trenton, 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.

- Pray for Pastor Tom (Marcia) Ellison who will have surgery today at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Pastor Ellison is the pastor at St. Mark's UCC in DuBois and serves as ISC's Region 7 Convener. He has also served on several other teams as well as Conference Council. Cards may be sent to 11426 State Highway 37, Benton, IL 62812.



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 Eisenhauer for hosting the event.



Worship Offering at Annual Meeting (1 of 3)

In order for your church to prepare for the worship offering at Annual Meeting, we felt an explanation would be helpful. One of this year's offerings will go to the DuBois Center Scholarship fund, which is used for children of families who cannot afford to attend camp through their own budgets.

Shirley speaks about it...

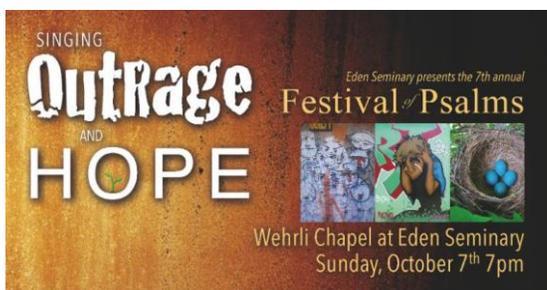
If we truly believe that children and youth need open space to laugh, sing, play and pray together; that meaningful connections with positive Christian role models make a real difference; that learning to respect and care for ourselves and our "neighbors" is a critical skill; and that faith grows as we learn, explore and ask tough questions, then a week at camp can be life-

changing and no one should be turned away for an inability to pay.

Finances are one of the challenges being faced by most, if not all, not-for-profit camps. Experts urge organizations to charge what it actually costs to operate a program or a facility including ongoing maintenance, and then provide scholarships for those with financial needs. Groups that have not done this have faced dire consequences. You can look across the country for examples or right here in southern Illinois. Fees that cover direct costs and scholarships for those in need are critical pieces of the equation.

The Sweet Shoppe at Fall Festival raises \$1,200 - \$1,500 annually for scholarships. In addition, DuBois Center receives about \$2,000 each year in gifts designated specifically for scholarships. Beyond that, the Center's budget underwrites an additional \$15,000 - \$18,000 of camper and retreat fees for families with significant financial struggles. DuBois Center participates in a Title XX (financial assistance) program through the American Camp Association. This program provides some reimbursement (approximately 25-30%) of a typical camper fee, and - more importantly - a way to spread the camp experience to children beyond our churches. Information on this program is sent to foster parents, families eligible for free and reduced meals at school, and those with crippling medical bills. Some of the campers utilizing this program come from UCC churches and programs, many do not. This is one way DuBois Center provides outreach on behalf of our local congregations to the wider community.

This year's Annual Meeting worship offering will be used to build the scholarship fund which will be used to underwrite the 70-75% of camper fees not covered by Title XX reimbursement, and in doing so, reduce our annual deficit, and provide for continued outreach.



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.



The Ecuador Partnership Committee (EPC) thanks the Hunger Action Team (HAT) for its donation to help support the food program of one of our mission partners in Ecuador. Once every five years, the Ecuador Partnership Committee meets with our five partners to review our partnership in mission and how we can further the mission through supporting our partners in their mission endeavors. One of the partners, Advent St Nicholas (ASN), is the church of worship for the mission work teams while they are in Quito. In 2015, ASN asked us to help them with their mission at The Refugio de Los Sueños (The Refuge of Dreams), a before and after school support center for children.



El Refugio is located in Toctoico, a low-socioeconomic area of Quito, Ecuador. This center provides much-needed support to the children in the form of; meals, life skills classes (including rooftop gardening), health care, and social services. El Refugio has a large building in an urban area. The neighborhood is very high in crime and low in income, so the children are always at great risk. Because of the poverty in the area, home lives can be dangerous, chaotic, and unpredictable. The center, with its loving staff and years of experience, serves over 170 students daily. For many children who attend, El Refugio is their only stable environment, since their home lives may not provide the food, love, or emotional support they need for proper nourishment and socio-emotional growth and development.

In 2015, the Ecuadorian government made drastic funding cuts to El Refugio's budget. Since that time, the center has struggled to serve meals and has had to cut back on serving meals to children due to a severe lack of resources. This cut was significant, so any monies that we can raise will help the children with food security.



The children have planted and helped cultivate food used at the center, including onions, lettuce, and herbs. Also attached is a link that includes a short video and a description of the center.



Where the need is greatest is where we can provide the biggest source of relief for those who suffer. The EPC looks forward to partnering with HAT in a joint effort to help put hot food in the bellies of children in need. The Ecuador Partnership Committee, Advent St. Nicholas Church, the leaders at El Refugio, and most of all the children, are appreciative of HAT's generosity. Click [here](#) to find out more about the center.

DuBois Center News

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

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday Oct 7
from 11-5

DuBois Center

HELP PROMOTE Fall Festival & DuBois Center Sunday, Oct 7

DuBois Center's Annual Fall Festival is THIS SUNDAY and your help is needed to spread the word! It's our last big push before the big day! 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:

- Utilize ready-to-print bulletin inserts -[B&W,color](#).
- Post flyers around your church and community -[B&W,color](#).
- 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!



SWEET TREATS

Cookies! Cakes! Pies! Breads! Snack Mixes! The Sweet Shoppe at Fall Festival is still in need of donations. Each dollar raised in this area goes directly to provide scholarships and 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! For more information, check out and share this [flyer](#) or text/call Melissa at 314-440-6646 or Kristen at 618-567-6863.



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



QUILTS TICKETS

Fall Festival is THIS SUNDAY, October 7, and there is still time to buy 1 quilt ticket or 20! Check out this [flyer](#) with photos and print your own [tickets](#). NOTE: All completed quilt tickets with payments must be received in the DuBois Center office by 2:00 pm on Sunday to be eligible for the drawing. Mail them today with a check or deliver them in person. A special THANKS to everyone who has been selling tickets at church and around the community, and to everyone who has purchased them.



WOMEN on RETREAT

The women of Friedens UCC in Troy are definitely not strangers to DuBois Center. They've donated kid-sized boots for the barn and dollars for new mattresses in the rustic cabins and main camp cottages. They've served meals during Fall Festival and played a huge role in the remodeling of Hickory Lodge - raising funds and providing labor. BUT, at least in recent history, they had not been on retreat at DuBois Center. They hadn't slept in the new beds, sunk into the comfy new sofas, or savored the updated décor - until now. This past weekend, 15 women from Friedens experienced the joy of being on retreat together. They played and prayed; they laughed, ate and sang together. They enjoyed the weather, the food, the hayride and each other's company. Click [here](#) to see these wonderful women up close. Stephanie Williams, Christian Education Director, and her team put together a wonderful

program and were the guides for the weekend. If you are interested in creating a retreat for a group in your church or community, please contact DuBois Center at 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!



Caring compassionately for aging and disabled people since 1985

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](#).

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.

The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease will be presented by the Alzheimer's Association on Tues, Oct 23 from 6 pm - 7 pm at University Pointe II Center in Edwardsville. If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia, it's time to learn the facts. This program provides information on detection, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease, treatment and more. It is hosted in collaboration with St. John's Community Care. Registration is requested. Call St. John's Community Care at 618-344-5008.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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.



United Church of Christ

For more information, contact Priscilla Self, Disaster Relief Coordinator, at pjj48@hotmail.com or 618-318-0083.

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

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

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.

1 and Sat, Nov 3. \$5/pound = 4 links. Contact 618-542-3431.

General Funds. Contact 618-466-3640.

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.

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 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.

Christ UCC in Dupo is having their annual "Fall Festival" on Saturday, October 13 from 9 am - 3 pm. Soups, sandwiches, homemade pie. Yard sale. Country store and crafts. Quilt drawing at 3 pm. Prize board and basket raffle. Vendors needed. Call 618-286-4211.

Waterloo St. Paul UCC will hold a Free Concert on Sun, Oct 21 at 2 pm entitled "Simply Patsy" starring Mary Pfeifer. She sings Patsy Cline's greatest hits and tells stories about Patsy and her life. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information, contact the church at 618-939-7123.

Region 3

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.

On Oct 21, St. John UCC in Granite City will have its annual Sausage Dinner and Bazaar from 11:30 am - 6 pm. Menu: sausage, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, homemade

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. To order curbside service, call 618-667-6535. Menu: all-you-can-eat grilled pork sausage, applesauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, 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.

Exhale, the youth group of Staunton St. Paul UCC, will hold its 3rd Annual Haunted House at the church on Sat, Oct 27 from 4 pm - 10 pm. Kids and adults welcome. Don't forget your costume. Cost \$5. Proceeds go to the Exhale summer mission trip.

Region 6

Pana United in Faith Church will hold its Annual German Sausage Supper on Sat, Oct 6 from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Menu includes bratwurst, knockwurst, sweet/sour red cabbage, sauerkraut, German potato salad, applesauce, green beans, pie, German chocolate cake and drink. Donations \$10. Proceeds go to the church's missions. Carry outs available. Handicap accessible.

Central City Zion UCC will celebrate its 160th Anniversary on Sun, Oct 14 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.

Region 7

Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC presents "Brett Gibbs and Friends in Concert" on Sun, October 21 at 2 pm. Refreshments

Region 9

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

applesauce, bread, desserts and drinks. Country Store stocked with crafts, homemade food, jewelry, antiques. Handmade quilt and afghan raffles. Contact the church office at 618-877-6060.

Region 4

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.

will follow in Fellowship Hall. It will show the versatility & capabilities of Zion UCC's NEW Allen organ. Friends of Brett Gibbs features Chris Gregg on saxophone, Polly Launay on violin, and Marcia Henson on handbells. For more information, contact Rev. Bill Causer at bcauser39@gmail.com or 618-670-6697. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

Friedens UCC in 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.

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. Dine-in, carry-outs and drive-thru are available."