

Weekly Connection

For the Week of November 4 - November 10, 2018
 Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...



Seventy-five people from thirty-one churches in Illinois South and Missouri Mid-South Conferences attended the Annual Meeting Warm-up Event on Friday, October 26 at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville. Featured speaker, Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger, shared ideas for being the church in uncharted territory created by the changing times and priorities of our world. The group then divided into small groups to go into the ideas in depth and how that may be used in our churches today.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Rev. Shana Johnson (right), welcomes Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger, keynote speaker for Annual Meeting. Tod spoke two times, enthusiastically recounting the story of Lewis & Clark as they planned to make their way to the Pacific Ocean in canoes. They came to the source of the Missouri River and expected to find another waterway to take them the rest of the way, only to find mountains instead. Tod related the current situation of the Church to this uncharted territory faced by Lewis & Clark.

One of the offerings of the Annual Meeting was donated items to be used by the St. Paul Senior Community in Belleville, one of ISC's Recognized Council of Health & Human Services organizations. Delegates from the 79 ISC churches were very generous in donating items from the St. Paul Senior Community wish list as well as a financial donation of \$357.33. Members of St. Paul UCC in Belleville accepted the items with gratitude. *Photo l to r: Greg Seaman, Rev. Michelle Torigian, Terry Kalinowski, Rev. Gus Kuether, Wayne Caughman, Synthia Kalinowski, Lee-Alison Wilson, and Mimi Llamas.* **Look for the amounts collected for DuBois Center and the new Fund for Communities of Practice in the upcoming Weekly Connections.**



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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[Neighborhood Houses](#)

[New Athens Home](#)

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

[St. Paul's Sr. Community](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)
[ISC Directory](#)

Pray for...

Prayer list for Nov 4 - Nov 10, 2018 Churches & Pastors

- Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Christy (Donald) Eckert
- Troy Friedens UCC, Rev. Douglas (Rev. Jill) Seagle

These organizations, teams and committees shared their information and items to purchase at the Annual Meeting MarketPlace.

Deaconess Foundation
DuBois Center
Ecuador Partnership
Eden Bookstore
Emmaus Homes
Hitz Memorial Home
Hoyleton Youth & Family Services
Illinois Conference of Churches
ISC Hunger Action Committee
ISC Planned Giving
ISC Pride
Plowsharing Crafts
St. John's Community Care
St. Paul's Senior Community
Southern Illinois Citizen's Climate Lobby & Save the Earth
Straight Up Solar
Uni-Pres Kindercottage
UCC Global Ministries
UCC Building & Loan
UCC Cornerstone Fund
UCC Disaster Ministries
United Church Funds

An EXTRA thanks to Deaconess Foundation for sponsoring the breakfast and presenting the information about their mission work for the children at risk.



John Hawn (left photo below) and Laurie Voss (left in right photo below) and Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan (right in right photo), from St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville, shared their musical talents at Annual Meeting. John is the Music Director at St. John Evangelical UCC. Laurie is involved in the music ministry there. Rev. Morgan is the Intentional Interim at St. John Evangelical UCC. He played the harmonica, accompanied by Laurie and John. It was very special to hear delegates begin to hum the familiar tune he played during the communion procession and then all begin to sing the words, one by one. It was a spiritual moment, receiving the sacraments and the spontaneous music simultaneously.



Tod Bolsinger offered ISC a link where we can download a PDF of his presentation slides and have complimentary access to a new online resource from Fuller. You can click [here](#) or go to Fuller.edu/CanoeingSlides to get started.

This resource, called "Leading in Uncharted Territory" was authored by Tod to help leaders take the next step in their development. "Leading in Uncharted Territory," which will be featured on the Fuller Leadership Platform in 2019, is available to anyone who attended the Annual Meeting where Tod spoke, and to their congregations. You may start using it for free!

The National Setting of the United Church of Christ is pleased to announce the availability of the 2017 Annual Report. To manage costs, a very small print run is distributed on a limited basis. Click [here](#) to see a pdf of the report.

Retired ISC Secretary

- Joanne Klueter,
Highland, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Keep the family of Rev. Georgia White-Kissling in your prayers as they mourn her death on October 27, 2018. There will be a funeral service in Ohio on Thursday and a memorial service in Fresno sometime in the future. Rev. White-Kissling was the Pastor of St. John UCC in Fairview Heights from 1999-2009 and served on several ISC Teams during that time. She has been living in Ohio.

- Pray for Rev. Nancy (Kevin Lee) Spier-Lee as she had surgery recently. Rev. Spier-Lee recently retired as Pastor of Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe and served on several ISC Teams. Cards may be sent to Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee 309 Kroeger Avenue Dupu IL 62239.

- 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 is recovering from surgery. 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.



United Church of Christ

Job Opportunities

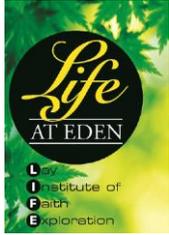
UCC Disaster Ministry has two full-time positions to fill.

* Disaster Recovery [Specialist](#) - Send Resume and Cover letter to Rev. Dr. Edward Davis at edavis@soc-ucc.org.

* [Construction](#) Manager - Send Resume and Cover

letter to Matt Hopson mhopson@setcdc.org.

Note that both of these positions will be working directly with UCC Disaster Ministries and our partners.



The LIFE (Lifelong Learner Institute of Faith Exploration) program welcomes laity and clergy seeking to explore their Christian faith. Participants spend Saturday on campus in fellowship with others, taking either a certificate or an elective course, worshipping and eating together.

Date/Time - 11/10/2018; 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Join us for the next LIFE at Eden, "How Do We Live Our Faith." Again this month, this is a Saturday only event at Eden Theological Seminary.

Certificate Course Church History

Dr. Adam Ployd

How can we cover 2000 years of church history in one day? Come find out as we use two biblical questions as our guides: "Who do you say that I am?" and "What must I do to be saved?" The answers may surprise you!

Dr. Ployd approaches the study of history not simply as facts about the past, but as a resource for our current and future ministries as a way to broaden our theological imaginations. "We are able to take a journey in our faith alongside those who have come before us and learn from them."

Recommended Reading: *Church History: An Essential Guide*, Justo Gonzalez, (Abingdon, 1996).

About Dr. Adam Ployd

Dr. Ployd is an Assistant Professor of Church History and Historical Theology, Eden Seminary and a commissioned Deacon and member of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC).

Elective Course

Mindfulness and the Mind of Christ: Exploring intersections between Buddhism and Christianity

Rev. Bill Perman

This course will explore where and how Buddhist thought and practice shed light on the life and teachings of Jesus and St. Paul. For instance, how can the Buddhist concept of No-Self (anatman) help us understand Jesus' demand that his disciples deny themselves? How does the Buddhist understanding of interbeing help us more deeply experience Paul's understanding of the church as the Body of Christ? Because Buddhism is more concerned with practice than with ideas, we will take time to practice walking, sitting, guided and deep relaxation meditation. We will also attend the Saturday morning gathering of the Midwest Moon Sangha which meets each week on the campus of Eden Seminary.



Recommended Reading: *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Thich Nhat Hahn and Thich Nhat Hahn's Five Mindfulness Trainings (various versions are available on the internet)

About Rev. Bill Perman

Rev. Bill Perman is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis in University City. Bill is married to Deborah Krause who teaches NT at Eden Seminary. Bill is also a member of the Midwest Moon Sangha, a Sangha (church) practicing in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh.

Location

Eden Theological Seminary, 475 East Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

For More Information Contact

Jill Schantz, Phone: 314-918-2554 E-Mail: jschantz@eden.edu

The St. Louis Association and
Epiphany United Church of Christ, St. Louis, Missouri
Invite you to the
Service of Installation for

Rev. Kris Avise-Rouse

Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 3:00 pm

Epiphany UCC, 2911 McNair Ave, St. Louis, Missouri 63118

The Rev. Dr. Heather Arcovitch will be preaching during this celebration of new ministry for Rev. Avise-Rouse. Clergy who wish to participate in the opening processional are invited to wear their robes and vestments. Clergy are asked to arrive by 2:30 pm. Red is the color of the day. An offering will be received during the service and will be dedicated to Joint Neighborhood Ministry. All are invited to a time of fellowship following the Service of Installation.

The **UCC Statistical Profile** is now available from the Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD). The data for all UCC churches will cover memberships and participation data; race/ethnicity by congregations; stewardship and finances; congregational statistics; ministerial statistics and financial statistics. You may view it as a pdf by clicking [here](#) or as a PowerPoint presentation to be used in your church [here](#). Please share it with the members of your congregations.

DuBois Center News

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



FALL WORK DAY November 3

Stretch your muscles! Breathe fresh fall air! Hang out with friends and lend a helping hand! Youth groups, families, individuals, and adult fellowships are all invited to our annual fall work day. Projects vary, depending on the skills

of those involved and the weather. Preparations for winter, stacking wood, raking leaves, cleaning and painting are on the list, as are a variety of skilled labor projects. The work may not be glamorous, but it really does make a BIG DIFFERENCE! Click [here](#) for a flyer to post and share and [here](#) for a typical Work Day schedule. Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend and if any of your group members have special skills. We want to be sure to have appropriate projects and a hot lunch ready for you! Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



Stepping Outside the Classroom

Every spring and fall, DuBois Center transforms into a giant outdoor learning environment. Over the past month, nearly 150 students from eight schools in St. Louis, Godfrey and Centralia traveled with parents and teachers to participate in Nature's Classroom. DuBois Center staff taught a wide variety of classes - some are exclusive to this outdoor experiential education program, and some are camp favorites with a learning focus. There was horseback riding and archery of course, well creek walks that explored erosion and stream ecology. Students discussed history and basic principles of physics before experimenting with soda bottle rockets and an egg drop. Time spent at the Teams Course built confidence, improved communication (and LISTENING!) skills, and observation-focused woodland walkabouts highlighted the beauty and wonder that fills DuBois Center. As we pack away class materials, we look forward to our spring Nature's Classroom season.



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

Turkey Trot - From now until Nov 14, walk in the St. John Evangelical UCC gym (Faith Hall), 307 W Clay in Collinsville from 7 am - 9 am or from 11 am - 1 pm. For every 10 miles walked your name will be added into a random drawing to win one of these terrific prizes! 1st Prize - Frozen Turkey 12-14 lbs; * 2nd Prize - Kruta's Pie; * 3rd Prize

- THE TURKEY TROPHY!! Along with dish soap, a hand towel and rubber gloves! Each participating walker will also have the opportunity to "adopt" a paper turkey and for every 5 miles walked you can add a feather to the turkey tail. The walker who is strutting their stuff with the most feathers at the end of the contest wins a \$25.00 gift card to Schnucks! If a tie occurs, a random drawing will be held to determine the winner. Winners will be announced on November 14. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

Alzheimer's Association in partnership with St. John's Community Care will hold an educational program called "Effective Communication Strategies" on Wed, Nov 14 from 5:30 pm - 7 pm at St. John's Community Care in Collinsville. Communication is more than just talking and listening - it's also about sending and receiving messages through attitude, tone of voice, facial expressions and body language. As people with Alzheimer's disease and other demintias progress in their journey and ability to use words is lost, families need new ways to connect. The program is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Call 618-344-5008 to make a reservation. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Climate Justice Sermon Campaign

On October 29th, what has been called "the trial of the century" by some news outlets across the country will begin. Twenty-one children and youth have sued the federal government over its role in causing climate change and violating their rights to life, liberty, and property, while also failing to protect essential public resources. One of the plaintiffs is Kiran Oommen who is the son of a UCC pastor. (The lawsuit is non-partisan, having been initiated against the previous administration and continued against the current one.)

The UCC Council for Climate Justice has spearheaded a sermon campaign with over 20 organizations of different faiths participating. Pastors are invited to make a pledge to deliver a sermon in solidarity with these children and youth at some point in the coming months. Youth that would like to preach are especially encouraged to participate as well. The trial will likely last until January, so there is plenty of time to plan. You can learn more about the case and sign-up to preach by scrolling down this page: www.eachgeneration.org. Anyone who commits to preach is asked to send a copy of your sermon to Brooks Berndt, the UCC Minister for Environmental Justice. He can be reached at berndtb@ucc.org. He will be posting sermons on the UCC website.

Join St. Peter's UCC in Murphysboro
For the installation of
Reverend Michael R. Cassady

Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 3 pm
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
1512 Spruce Street, Murphysboro, IL

No gifts please. A reception to follow the service. Pastors who wish to participate are asked to robe with a red stole and arrive one-half hour prior to service.



In a spirit of celebration,
Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ
in covenant with

St. Paul United Church of Christ

invites you to a
Service of Installation
for

Rev. Michelle Torigian

Sunday, November 11, 2018
3 pm

St. Paul United Church of Christ, 115 West B Street, Belleville, Illinois

Reception to follow in Activity Center. RSVP to 618-233-3303 or tkehopper@stpaulucc.org
by Monday, November 5. Pastors are asked to robe with their favorite red stole and to arrive at

2:30 pm to join in the procession.

Save the Date!!

Winter Weekend will be held on January 19-21, 2019 at DuBois Center. Mark it on your calendars. Talk it up among your youth. More details will be coming soon.

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 4

St. John's UCC of Brighton will hold its Fall Fish Fry and Gift Sale on Fri, Nov 16 from 11 am- 6 pm. Menu includes Buffalo and White Fish sandwiches, Pulled Pork sandwiches and various sides and desserts. Deliveries during the lunch hour available for businesses and schools in the Brighton Area. Gift sale includes handmade items, jellies, salsa and various baked goods. Dine in or carry out. 618-372-3737.

Region 5

Exhale Youth Group at Staunton St. Paul UCC will hold a Craft Fair & Vendor Sale on Sat, Dec 1 from 9 am - 3 pm. Great for Christmas shopping. Bake sale. Vendors and crafters wanted. Contact 618-520-0185 or [email](mailto:).

Region 2

Red Bud St. Peter UCC will host a Trivia Night on Sat, Nov 3 at Ratzkeller Banquet Hall in Red Bud. Doors open at 6:30 pm and play from 7 pm - 10 pm. Music by *Pamela*

Region 6

St. Peter UCC in Hookdale (Smithboro) will hold its Pork Sausage Supper on Sat, Nov 3 from 4 pm to 8 pm at St. Peter UCC, 1670 Hookdale Ave., Smithboro.

& *A Piano* will be from 10 pm - 11 pm. \$80 per table of 6 - 8 players includes 5 trivia mulligans. More mulligans available for purchase. Cash prizes. Silent auction. 50/50 raffle and attendance prizes. Bring your own snacks (some provided). No outside beverages allowed. Contact Pamela at 618-977-1947 or plwegs@gmail.com. Walk-ins welcome. Proceeds go to the church's educational building remodel project.

The Friedens UCC Church Family in Hecker invites you and your family to a Feast of All You Can Eat Soups & Chili on Sat, Nov 3 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Menu includes homemade soups & chili, desserts & beverages. Dine in only please. Adults \$9; Children 6-12 \$3; 5 & under: Free

Region 3

SAVE THE DATE

St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will host a VBS Showcase on Fri, Jan 4, 2019 from Noon-2 pm. A free lunch will be served at Noon! Come take a look at the VBS starter kits for 2019, share ideas, and coordinate sharing decorations. A Group Publishing representative will be present to introduce Group's VBS curriculum. Cokesbury is sending four curriculum kits to review. RSVP to Dana at 618-344-2526.

Region 5

Marine UCC will hold its Family Style Pork Sausage Dinner on Sun, Nov 4 from 11 am - 5:30 pm. Menu includes homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, applesauce, corn, sauerkraut, homemade pie. Adults \$10; Children 4 - 10 years \$4; Children 3 & under Free. Farmer's Market for fresh sausage, ribs, and backbone, jellies, crafts, baked goods. Raffles.

Troy Friedens UCC will have its 17th Annual Fall Quilt & Art Show on Sat, Nov 10 from 10 am - 3 pm. Quilt display. Art Work. Crafts. Bake sale. Holiday Market, Many vendors. 50/50 and raffles. Admission \$2 which includes coffee and cookies. Lunch available for purchase. If you would like to display a quilt or artwork, contact Gloria at 618-830-6628 or Vicki at 618-667-3161.

Exhale Youth Group at Alhambra will hold a Turkeyfest on Nov 18 from 11 am - 12:30 pm. Menu of turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, dressing, green beans, and dessert. Adults \$8 (\$10 at the door); Children under 10 \$4 (\$5 at the door).

Grantfork UCC will hold its 49th Annual Family Style Sausage Supper on Sat, Nov 10 from 3 pm - 8 pm. Menu includes homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes & milk gravy, applesauce, green beans, corn, sauerkraut, homemade pie. Adults \$10; Children 6 - 12 years \$5; Children 5 & under Free. Carry-Outs are available for \$10. Packaged Sausage and Fried Sausage are available for sale. Raffle. Country Corner with homemade goodies.

Adults \$9 in advance or \$10 at the door. Adult carry-outs and bulk sales available.

Region 7

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.

Region 8

Zion UCC in New Baden will sponsor the Festival of Trees on Nov 15 - 18.

On Nov 15 at 7 pm, you may attend a holiday decorating demonstration by the design team of Grimm & Gorly florist. \$10 admission fee includes demonstration, snacks, sneak peak of the trees and 1 raffle ticket.

The Christmas Swirl & Sip is Nov 16 from 7 pm - 9 pm.

Nov 16 is a Kid's Movie & Pajama Party from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

Breakfast with Santa happens on Nov 17 from 9 am - 11 am.

Nov 17 from 10 am - 4 pm North Pole Shoppes, Vendor & Craft Fair.

Nov 17 from 9 am - 11 am Enjoy Breakfast with Santa.

Experience the Make & Take Bakery on Nov 18 from 10 am - 2 pm.

Lenzburg, St. Peter UCC will hold its Pancake and Sausage Breakfast with Sunday School Craft and Bake Sale on Sat, Nov 10 from 6 am to Noon. Menu includes whole hog sausage, "made from scratch" pancakes. Fresh meat available. Church is handicapped accessible. Questions? Call the church at 618-475-2557.