

Weekly Connection

For the Week of November 18 - November 24, 2018
and Week of November 25 - December 1, 2018

Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

The young people pictured are students in the St. John Evangelical UCC of Collinsville Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group. They had a day off school recently and Pastor Katie Jo from St. John Evangelical UCC invited them to volunteer with St. John's Community Care Adult Day Program. The group enjoyed a vigorous game of balloon volleyball. Volleyball was followed

by students helping to prep the craft for the day. They all eagerly joined and assisted participants in creating the festive jack-o-lantern craft. Lots of great conversations were had and new friendships were made. To the delight of the participants in adult day, the jack-o-lanterns adorned the walls at the day center for a few weeks, which allowed them to reminisce about their fun day with their new friends. The creations are now being sent home with adult day participants in pairs..the one they created and one made by their new student friend.



On Sunday, November 11, Rev. Michelle Torigian was installed as Pastor and Teacher for St. Paul UCC in Belleville. Several Pastors participated in the installation service.

Front row, left to right: Rev. Andy Wilson, Smithton St. John's UCC; Rev. Ann Wilson, retired; Rev. Christy Eckert, Trenton St. John UCC; Rev. Michelle Torigian, Belleville St. Paul UCC; Rev. Brian Robison, St. Mark Lutheran Church in Belleville; Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister.

Middle row, left to right: Rev. Linda Reynolds, retired; Rev. Levering Reynolds, retired; Rev. Katie Hotze Wilson, Director of Audio and Visual Instructional



Important Links

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Pray for...

Prayer list for Nov 18 - Nov 24, 2018 Churches & Pastors

- Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe
- Wood River St. John UCC, Rev. Kevin (Debra) Weaver, Interim Pastor

Technology at Eden Theological Seminary; Rev. Katie Jo Bielke, Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC; Rev. Wendy Brunner, Webster Groves Peace UCC. Back row, left to right: Rev. Todd Mushaney, Dupo Christ UCC; Rev. Gus Kuether, retired; Rev. Herb Schafale, retired; Rev. Marvin Morgan, Interim Pastor at Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC.

Left photo: Rev. Michelle Torigian was given a stole donated by the family of Rev. Howard (Priscilla) Self to honor her installation. Middle photo: Pastor Torigian had a little fun shooting a selfie with the participating pastors.



Right photo: Rev. Elizabeth Dille, MESA staff member, Minister for Ministers in Local Churches spoke at the installation service to honor Pastor Torigian. Welcome to the Illinois South Conference, Rev. Torigian.

Retired Pastor

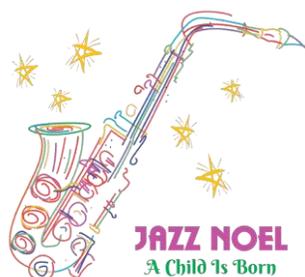
- Rev. Fred and Shirley Wehrenberg, Columbia, IL

Attention:

There will be no *Weekly Connection* on Tuesday, November 20 as Lynnette will be out of town celebrating Thanksgiving. The Prayer list for that upcoming week is below.

Prayer list for Nov 25 - Dec 1, 2018 Churches & Pastors

- Addieville Zion UCC, Rev. William Groennert
 - Alhambra Salem UCC, Pastor John Mindrup, Associate Pastor
- ### Retired Pastor
- Rev. Robert and Doris Utke, Falcon Heights, MN



For the past seven years Jazz Noel has held 15 concerts in six different churches throughout St. Louis, Kansas City and Southern Illinois. They have performed for more than 3,000 people, and raised nearly \$4,000 for local community service organizations. Jazz Noel returns this year with two performances on Sat, Dec 15 at 3 pm at Parkway UCC, 2841 N. Ballas Road, St Louis, MO and on Sun, Dec 16 at 3 pm at First Congregational UCC, 10 W. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO. Oikos

Ensemble features some of St. Louis' most talented jazz musicians-Clifford Aerie (sax), Kim Fuller (vocalist), Carolbeth True (piano), Glen Smith (bass), David True (drums), and Tim Osiek (trumpet). This year's special guests will be St. Louis' premier jazz vocal ensemble, Java Jived. A mixed vocal octet, Java Jived specializes in a cappella arrangements of jazz standards, pop classics, and music from the great American Songbook. Java Jived has performed at numerous venues throughout the area and now brings their unique vocalese style to Jazz Noel. Jazz Noel is a free gift to the community. At each performance a free will offering is received to support a local community service organization. Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your congregations.

People with Life Concerns

- Keep Pastor Don (Lois) Propeck in your prayers as he deals with some health issues. Don is the pastor of St. Paul UCC in Jamestown and is currently serving on the ISC Committee on Ministry. Cards may be sent to him at 2163 E 1150th Ave, Loogootee IL 62838.
- Pray for Rev. Nancy (Kevin Lee) Spier-Lee as she recovers from surgery. 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 Dupo 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

HOLY GHOST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, DARMSTADT CELEBRATING 175TH ANNIVERSARY

This past year Holy Ghost has been celebrating 175 years of service to God (along with our sister church Trinity UCC, Biddleborn celebrating 140 years of service). We have had all of our celebrations together with Trinity except their own special day in October. This Sunday, November 18th, Holy Ghost will be having a special celebration day. We invite church family, family and friends to join us on this special day. Two of our past ministers will be joining us and "Blue Grass Gospel Singers" will be with us. A meal and time for fellowship and memories will take place following worship. Service begins at 10:00 am and the address for Holy Ghost is 2806 Weilmuenster Road, Darmstadt. In the past years we have remained two church buildings but have become ONE congregation and family. God is good!





Action vs Fear

Recently, my oldest daughter and I were going through her childhood pictures for a project she was working on. We came across a picture of her that I remember quite well. It was taken at my grandparent's pool in their backyard. In the picture, she is wearing her Little Mermaid swimsuit, no water wings and is jumping off the diving board.

I remember the picture because I remember witnessing how fearlessly my five year old faced the water, but also how fearlessly she seemed to take on any challenge. The picture was not a staged scene. Rather, a moment my father (who always seems to have a camera in hand) captured perfectly. My father had captured her pure determination, confidence, and joy as she jumped into the deep end.

Now, twenty-three years old looking at the picture of her childhood self, my daughter saw clearly what had been captured. In awe, she said, "Gosh, imagine what we could all accomplish if we didn't lose that childlike fearlessness?" Indeed, imagine what we could accomplish. Not just in our individual lives, but in our shared lives together especially in the church.

All too often, I see congregations living out of fear.

Fear of the unknown.

Fear of what is no longer. Fear of not having enough.

Fear of what might be.

Fear of taking risks.

Fear of making certain decisions.

Fear of what others will think or say.

Fear of being honest.

Fear of saying what needs to be said.

Fear of doing what needs to be done.

And all too often, we mistakenly believe we must have faith and courage to overcome our fears. Yet, I believe faith and courage come after we face our fears. They are the rewards of actions. Action itself is the source of power and courage. It is what erases the fear.

Author and motivational speaker Steve Chandler in his book *Reinventing Yourself* shares an eye opening conversation with one of his mentors. Out of deep admiration, he said to his mentor, "You can do things other people are too afraid to do." His mentor immediately responded, "I can do these things because I had done them. Doing them is how I learned to do them."

Essentially what he was saying is how we overcome fear is by doing what we fear to do. It is taking the first step, the first action. That action does not need to be perfect, as it will begin to feed itself the power needed to continue. Just take action. Do it imperfectly; do it slowly; do it fearfully; do it any way you can and eventually the fear will dissipate and your deepening faith and courage will follow.

I remember the first time I tried to coax my daughter to jump off the diving board. She would walk right to the edge, look down at the water, shake her head, and turn back the other way to walk off of the board. I am not sure how many times she did this. Finally, she walked to the edge, took a deep breath, and jumped. The first jump gave her greater courage to do it again, and again and again.

The first step in facing our fears is the hardest.

The first conversation.

The first meeting.

The first decision.

The first moment of honesty.

Yet, this is how we face our fears and it is how we discover our determination, confidence, and joy. Yes, the first jump is the hardest, but I promise you it is worth it.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

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.

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 2

Worship at Marine UCC, Marine
Participating in Rev. Andy Wilson's installation service at St. John's UCC, Smithton

December 9

Leading worship at the UCC Authorized Ministry in the 21st Century event

December 16

Leading worship at the UCC Authorized Ministry in the 21st Century event

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.**

Tod Bolsinger, Keynote Speaker at ISC Annual Meeting, 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!

Winter Weekend 2019 is scheduled for January 19-21, 2019 (over the Martin Luther King Jr weekend). The event will take place at DuBois Center and the theme is "Speak Your Truth". The keynote speaker is Rev Trayce Potter who is the Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement for the UCC. The cost remains the same as last year at \$150 (early bird rate) or \$165 (late registrations) which includes lodging and meals. We plan to have the information and registration packet go out to the churches & youth leaders within the week, so watch your emails! We hope you will start to encourage your youth to attend this faith-filled and relationship-building event!



GREEN DUBOIS - Stewardship Opportunity Saturday, Dec 1

Join the team and make a difference! Removing invasive species is the priority for the day. They are insidious - "choking" out native plants and affecting tree reproduction essential for healthy woodlands. This is a great opportunity to move those muscles, meet and work with others who care about the environment, enhance beautiful native plants, rescue wildlife habitat, and help ensure the future of DuBois Center's wonderful woodlands. No special skills are needed. Dress for the weather and bring lopping shears - if you have them. Minimum Age: 16. Lunch will be provided. Please **RSVP** no later than **MONDAY, NOV 26**. For

more information, contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

DuBois Center News

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



WANTED: TALENT SCOUTS

With leaves and random snowflakes falling, summer camp seems eons away! However, planning is in full swing and summer staff recruitment kicks off over Thanksgiving weekend. We are in search of caring, hard-working individuals who enjoy the outdoors, love to have fun, and can embrace their silly side. They must have a passion for working with young people, and a heart for ministry and service. Paid and volunteer positions are available for Summer 2019. If you know someone who might be a good fit, either please complete the information on this [form](#) and return it or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Full application packets will be available on our website on Nov 19.





"THANK YOU" CHRISTMAS PARTY

Rescheduled for March

This annual event is traditionally our opportunity to say **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for your prayers and support; your gifts of time, talent and treasure; and your partnership in our shared mission and ministry at DuBois Center. This year we are certainly no less grateful, but we did take some extra time for reflection before sending out the invitations. Our lives are packed with holiday commitments... with family, church, friends, the crew from work, our social groups... We often have to choose between two, even three holiday gatherings on the same night. On top of that, it's DARK outside, the weather is often questionable and the roads to DuBois Center are not the best - even in the daylight. This year the Outdoor Ministries Team would like to give you a different kind of gift - the gift of time, the gift of one less place to be, one less present to wrap, a free moment to... breathe. We do hope you will join us in March when we celebrate spring, new life and YOU! Thank you for a great year, and watch this space for details in January.

BUDDY to BUDDY Hoyleton Mission Experience 2019

June 30 - July 3

Looking for a meaningful and affordable summer mission trip for the young people of your church? Look no further! Bring your youth and "buddy-up" with day campers from Hoyleton's residential programs. Help create a setting that is welcoming and accepting. Get your hands dirty with a work project, and spend quality time reflecting on this experience and God's call to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly." **Buddy to Buddy** begins with orientation on Sunday afternoon and concludes after dinner and a closing circle on Wednesday. Registration is by church or region group, not individual. Adult chaperones must accompany youth participants. The cost is \$175 per person. Space is limited. Click [here](#) for more information or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



GIVE THANKS & ENJOY TODAY!

Reasons to give thanks are plentiful at DuBois Center. God's creation is majestic - the plants and critters, the trees and lakes, the people. During the coming weeks of preparation, anticipation and celebration, remember to get outside and ENJOY TODAY! "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1.

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24.

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

You can be a lifeguard!



Moderate to strong swimmer? Each summer we hire 7-8 young adults with Lifeguard certification



to serve on our summer staff. If you are interested, NOW is the time to start swimming. Stay in shape this winter while preparing for a great summer job. Check out courses at your local college or university, rec center, YMCA or JCC. Hint: If your school offers a course - take it. Those classes are generally less expensive than community classes. Lifeguard certification classes also include First Aid and CPR certification, both of which are prerequisites for summer staff. Questions about lifeguard certification? Contact us by [email](#) or 618-787-2202. Happy swimming!

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



The Illinois Conference of Churches is embracing fund raising to underpin its income and continue its valuable ecumenical work and remain a communications conduit between Christian denominations. They have chosen the phenomenal talent of Chicago Bronze, a premier handbell choir featuring seven octaves of bells and five octaves of chimes, for a Christmas concert on Sat, Dec 8 at 7:30 pm. The St. Julie Billiard Catholic Church of Tinley Park has donated their facility including their very unique and beautiful sanctuary. Please consider attending and/or making this your office Christmas party. Most of all they ask you to share this

information with your congregations and clergy. Please pass the information on to friends and colleagues who may have the advantage of living closer to Tinley Park. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



Caring compassionately for aging and disabled people since 1985

The Alzheimer's Association is offering free one-hour consultations to discuss dementia and Alzheimer's-related issues on Dec 7 from 9 am - 3 pm at St. John's Community Care in Collinsville. Consultations are offered by a social worker to answer your questions and address concerns. This can include things like caregiver stress, diagnosis questions, resources and services, coping with behaviors, and learning how to communicate with someone who has dementia. Appointments are required by Dec 5. Call 314-801-0414. Walk-ins will be accepted if time allows.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

The Christmas gathering of the Pastors/Spouses Fellowship is set for Thurs, Dec 6 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville at 11:30 am. You can order off the menu or the buffet. All may tour the Christmas tree room and see the holiday wreaths in the hallway in the Visitors Center. RSVP to Herb & Bennie Schafale at 618-476-3925 or herbenne@wisperhome.com no later than Monday, December 3 so we can turn in an accurate count to the restaurant. Here's to a great Christmas get-together of this group on December 6.

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.

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.



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 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.

SAVE THE DATE

St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville will host a VBS Showcase on Friday, January 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, coordinate sharing VBS decorations, and share ideas. 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 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

Region 5

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).

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

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.

Brighton St. John's UCC will host a new group forming called The Riverbend Rainbow Community Connection on Thurs, Nov 29 at 7 pm. It will focus on the Riverbend area of Illinois (Granite City to Grafton). We are reaching out to the LGBTQIA+ community and Allies in the Riverbend area of Illinois (Granite City to Grafton) to make connections, build support and share resources for our Rainbow Community. This will be a community meeting to help form new groups and share resources and is open to all ages, identities, and organizations interested in improving the LGBTQIA Community. Handicap accessible building. For more information, contact Laurie Crelly at Lcrelly@yahoo.com or 618-556-0801. This event is not religiously focused. LGBTQIA affirming faith leaders and congregational representatives are invited to be involved. St. John's UCC is an Open and Affirming Community of Faith of the United Church of Christ. For more information about Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC, click [here](#).

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](#).

Region 7

Zion UCC in Addieville will hold its 69th Annual Wurst Markt on Wed, Nov 14 at the Addieville Community Club at 4 pm. All you can eat buffet style menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, peas, applesauce, desserts and coffee. Adults \$10; Children \$5. Adult only carryouts. Advance sausage sales only. Call 618-424-7816.

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.