

Weekly Connection

For the Week of December 9, 2018 - December 15, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

The large compass used as decoration at the ISC Annual Meeting and created by David Henerfauth from Maeystown St. John UCC is being offered to the churches in Illinois South Conference. It is currently in Maeystown, waiting for a new home. If your church is interested, please contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org or 618-654-2125. If you would like to make a donation to the Friends of the Conference or OCWM for the honor of having this fantastic decoration to

remind your church to navigate through uncharted territory, it will be greatly appreciated. The picture shows compass behind the newest ONA churches in Illinois South Conference, St. John UCC in Wood River and Zion UCC in Marion.

Tornado Relief Needed Near Pana

Many of you may have heard in the news of several tornadoes that touched down this past Saturday in central Illinois. An area that was hit the hardest was Taylorville, a neighboring community of United in Faith in Pana. Blessings were that there were no fatalities, however, many homes were destroyed and power was out for quiet some time. United in Faith Church is supporting the recovery effort by donating non-perishable items such as canned meats and veggies and hygiene products. If your congregation would be interested in helping support Taylorville, contact Rev. Joel Jackle-Hugh at 217-820-4997. Financial donations can be sent directly to the Taylorville Food Pantry at 1429 E Main Cross, Taylorville, IL 62568. Their clean up effort will take some time. Watch for updates coming from Rev. Jackle-Hugh in future *Weekly Connections*.

Join the Eden Community on February 8, 2019, at 10:30AM, for the Bracke Lecture called *Redeeming Administration: The Invitation Hidden in the Clutter on Your Desk*.

Administration is often critiqued both by those within the ministry and without as work that takes fun-loving people and turns them into anxious curmudgeons, but it doesn't have to be that way. Speaking out of her own experience as an administrator in educational and congregational settings, Ann Garrido will look at practices of administration that can be potentially transformative, making us not only effective administrators but holier, healthier Christians. Dr. Ann Garrido is Associate Professor of Homiletics at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Garrido's books will be for sale in the Eden Bookstore and will be available for a book signing after her lecture. Click [here](#) for more information on the lecture.



24 Hours at Eden Dates Announced

Our annual event, 24 Hours at Eden, will be February 17-18, 2019. This is a recruiting event at which we welcome prospective students on campus for 24 hours. During their time on campus, prospective students will experience life at Eden

Important Links

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Pray for...

Prayer list for
Dec 9 - Dec 15, 2018
Churches & Pastors

- Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Michelle Torigian
- Belleville Trinity UCC, Pastor Cory Hartz

including sit in on a class, meet Eden's outstanding faculty, interact with current students and learn about what it means to be a part of the Eden Community. If you know someone who may be interested in pursuing a world class seminary education, please send them to the Admissions Department to learn more about 24 Hours at Eden. Call Admissions at 877-627-5652 or click [here](#) for more information.

Winter Weekend 2019 will take place on **January 19-21, 2019** at DuBois Center. The theme for this year is "Speak Your Truth!". The speaker will be Rev. Trayce Potter, Minister for Youth & Young Adult Engagement for the UCC. We hope you will share this [packet](#) with your senior high youth and encourage them to attend this faith-filled and relationship-building event! If you would like this in hard-copy format, please email Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org.



Wolgemuth: "Don't get weary" in the face of so many disasters

by Zach Wolgemuth



United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, in partnership with the UCC Southern and Florida Conferences, is in the midst of planning for long-term recovery from Hurricanes Florence and Michael, including hiring of an Eastern Regional Disaster Recovery Specialist.

That specialist will play an important role in coordinating our response to these two large-scale disasters, challenging UCC volunteers and donors "don't get weary" in the face of what may feel like overwhelming challenges from this - and last - year's storms.

The UCC's long-term planning began even as Florence and Michael approached their targets, then got going in earnest in October during my visits to North Carolina with UCC Disaster Ministries Program Associate Amanda Sheldon and to Florida with a Red Cross colleague.

In North Carolina, we spent time with Southern Conference staff, local pastors, VOAD members, FEMA leadership and UCC members. Our goal: to gain a broader understanding of the unique challenges being faced within that conference and how the UCC (national, conference and local) might come together to support long-term recovery after Hurricane Florence. Read [more](#).



On Sun, Dec 2, Rev. Andrew Wilson was installed as Pastor and Teacher for Smithton St. John UCC. ISC is blessed with such incredible pastors and teachers. It gives us hope and joy that there is a new generation of pastors who are creative, forward thinking and on fire for the sake of the Gospel!!! The top photo shows the pastors attending and participating in the installation service. Left photo first row L to R: Revs. Jan Dashner, retired; Carol Shanks, Bethel UCC in Cahokia; Andrew Wilson, St. John UCC in Smithton; R.J. Morgan, Zoar UCC in New Hanover; Katie Jo Bielke, St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville. Left photo second row L to R: Revs. Ivan Horn, Friedens UCC in Hecker; Bob Goddard, St. Paul UCC in Columbia; Charles Preston, retired; Shana Johnson, Conference Minister; Pastor John Pawloski, St. Peter UCC in Centralia; Christy Eckert, St. John UCC in Trenton; Dwayne Dollgener, Interim Pastor at Immanuel UCC in Hamel; and Diane Grohmann, St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville. Photo to right is Rev. Andrew Wilson.



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Retired Pastor

- Rev. Robert and Nancy Tripp, Effingham, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for Pastor Nancy (Scott) Shubert as she deals with some health issues. Pastor Shubert serves Holy Ghost UCC in Darmstadt and Trinity UCC in Biddleborn. Cards may be sent to 12691 State Route 177, Okawville, IL 62271.

- Pray for Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins as she recovers from surgery. Rev. Atkins is the pastor at St. Paul UCC in Staunton. Cards may be sent to 339 North Franklin St, Staunton, IL 62088.

- 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 surgery. Pastor Ellison is the pastor at St. Mark's UCC in DuBois and serves as ISC's Region 7 Convener. He has

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.**

also served on several other teams as well as Conference Council. Cards may be sent to 11426 State Highway 37, Benton, IL 62812.

Region 2 will hold a Pilgrimage Progressive Dinner on Sat, Dec 8 and Sat, Dec 15. Stroll through the festive holiday decor of 10 of the area's historic UCC churches and enjoy a progressive dinner along the way! The merriment continues on the shuttle bus available to transport you to each stop along the tour. Tickets are \$20 to attend one dinner or \$30 to attend both dinners. Kids 12 and under eat free, although an advanced reservation is required. For an additional \$10 per day/per person, attendees may ride a shuttle. The shuttle departs from St. Paul United Church of Christ in Waterloo at 12:30 p.m. on December 8 and 12:15 p.m. on December 15. **TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT KATHY AT 618-304-0952.** Funds raised through the holiday dinner tours will go directly to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) which provides money and support to world-wide missions and disaster relief. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

Saturday, December 8

				
1 p.m. Appetizers at Zion UCC-St. Joe, 4202 Kaskaskia Rd., Waterloo, IL 62298	2 p.m. Salad at St. John UCC, 1208 Franklin Rd., Maeststown, IL 52256	3 p.m. Soup at Zoar UCC (New Hanover), 9103 D Rd., Columbia, IL 62236	4 p.m. Finger Sandwiches at St. Paul UCC, 127 N. St. Paul St., Columbia, IL 62236	5 p.m. Dessert at Christ UCC, 200 S. Third St., Duplo, IL 62239

Saturday, December 15

				
1 p.m. Appetizers at St. John UCC 504 Hickory St., Evansville, IL 62242	2 p.m. Salad at St. Peter UCC 415 Madison St., Red Bud, IL 62278	3 p.m. Soup at Friedens UCC, 240 E. Monroe St., Hecker, IL 62248	4 p.m. Finger Sandwiches at St. Paul UCC (Floraville), 100 Koerner St., Waterloo, IL 62298	5 p.m. Dessert at St. Paul UCC 200 N. Main St., Waterloo, IL 6229



OFFICE & EVENT COORDINATOR - Employment Opportunity

Enjoy connecting with people and the outdoors? Fluent in computer-speak? Looking for a position that is more than just a job? DuBois Center is seeking an Office & Event Coordinator. This is a permanent, part-time position; the purpose of which is to organize, coordinate and implement office and event functions at DuBois Center including camper family and guest relations, data management (financial, camper, guest group and employee), coordination of office help,

assistance with marketing efforts and occasional guest group hosting. The person filling this positions will be an integral part of the ISCUCC staff overall and the DuBois Center team. To apply, please submit a resume and cover letter to DuBois Center via email at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. Click [here](#) for the position description.



YEAR-END SUPPORT for Ministry at DuBois Center

This time of year, we are more mindful of giving thanks - for family, friends, our church community and God at work in our lives. At DuBois Center, we are also thankful for stories, especially ones of connection, challenge and transformation. These stories tell of new-found confidence for first-time campers, deepening parent-child relationships, faith discussions that come alive, individuals transformed into communities, unlikely friendships built on respect and so much more. Scores of dedicated volunteers, staff members and donors together make DuBois Center a place of welcome and hospitality, a place to connect, belong and grow... a place where faith is nurtured and stories are written. With your financial support this work continues. Click [here](#) to read our annual letter which highlights aspects of our shared ministry in the outdoors at DuBois Center in 2018. This is your ministry, the work of your congregations, the work of the Illinois South Conference. We hope you will consider a tax-deductible year-end gift. You may donate safely [online](#) or, if you prefer, use this [form](#) and mail your donation. With so many demands on your resources, we are truly honored by your gifts of financial support as well as offerings of prayer, time and talent. Thank you.

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.



SUMMER JOBS - DuBois Center Equestrian Program

Looking for a rewarding summer job working with children and horses? How about hands-on experience managing a trail ride program? DuBois Center has openings for a dedicated summer barn coordinator and two barn assistants/cabin counselors. Spending time with the horses is a highlight for many of our campers. In addition to caring for our 20-horse herd, our summer barn staff utilize basic riding instruction and time "getting to know the ponies" to help campers build self-confidence and learn to respect and appreciate God's amazing creation. For those who have never experienced a horse up close, the first moments can be overwhelming. However, with nurturing guidance, campers quickly learn that they can overcome their fears and experience something wonderful. Tears often transform into giant smiles. The joy campers show is reward enough, but serving on the summer barn staff also provides hands-on work experience for individuals considering a career in an equine-related field. For more information, check out the attached [flyer](#) or contact Shirley at 618-787-2202 or [email](#).



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

The weather was perfect for Saturday's inaugural Green DuBois Stewardship Day at DuBois Center. Volunteers split into teams to tackle two projects - invasive species removal and organizing and cleaning up the scrap pile and lumber shed. It was a day full of laughter, learning and fellowship - and a little bit of mud! With both scrap and usable materials sorted into discrete piles and boards stored neatly on shelves, the lumber shed looks like a brand-new building! Targets for the invasive species removal team included bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and multiflora rose. Over three hundred individual plants were removed from the stretch of woodlands from Oak Lodge to Picnic Point. This will allow populations of native plants to recover and protect DuBois Center's amazing biodiversity. Keep an eye out for more opportunities to join in caring for our little section of Creation!





**Join Us...
Join Us...Join Us...!!
for More Green DuBois!**



The Green DuBois meeting will be at the Illinois South Conference Highland office on Wednesday, December 5 at 1:30pm. Join us if you're interested in environmental sustainability and stewardship, natural sciences, outdoor recreation, or just love DuBois Center!

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.



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.

St. John's Community Care presents Brain Wave held on Wednesdays and Fridays and continues for 10 weeks. First class will be held on Wednesday, January 16 from 10 am - 2 pm. Brain Wave is open to people experiencing early memory loss. This group provides a safe, positive, strength-based environment where participants will learn, share, and engage together with an expert. Benefits of the class include education about memory loss, meaningful activities that build upon strengths and abilities, fun peer support, skill building and mentally challenging activities. Outcomes for participants may yield decreased depression, decreased anxiety in social settings, stabilized cognitive functioning and increased coping skills. To register or to schedule an assessment appointment, call 618-344-5008 by January 4. The curriculum was developed by the University of Wisconsin. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



At St. John's it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Thank you to Marilyn and her grandson Eli (right photo) for helping us decorate. Marilyn volunteers for many of our projects and serves as a Board Member for the agency. We are grateful for her compassion and dedication!

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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.

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 2

On Sun, Dec 16 at 7 pm, Waterloo St. Paul UCC will present St. Paul's "Pops" Orchestra Christmas Concert. Under the direction of Bob Rockford, it will feature selections from Mannheim Steamroller. There will be special music by Harps of St. Paul and Piano Quartet. No charge to attend, but a free-will offering will be accepted. Contact 618-939-7123.

Region 9

Belleville St. Paul UCC presents its St. Paul UCC Fine Arts Music Ministry Christmas Concert on Sat, Dec 15 at 3 pm. It features the Chancel Choir, B Street Band, and the Glory Ringers. Enter on C Street. All are invited.

Region 9

Belleville Christ UCC will hold its Christmas in Belleville Concert on Sat, Dec 8 at 5:30 pm - 8 pm. It will feature Jonathan Wilburn, Berdella McGrew, John Nimmo and The Rainey's. All are invited. Contact 618-233-1962.

Belleville St. Paul UCC presents Cookies with Santa on Sat, Dec 8 from 10 am - Noon. Enter off C Street. Christmas themed games, hot chocolate bar, storytime with Mrs. Claus at 11 am, family photo booth with Santa and his elf, and cookies.