

Weekly Connection

For the Week of December 16, 2018 - December 22, 2018
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

St. John UCC in Fairview Heights has taken on a wonderful project for girls in Peru. The ladies of St. John's UCC and great friends are putting together feminine hygiene kits to be shipped and used by girls in Peru. One Tuesday a month they meet to sew, cut, iron, fold, install snaps, and put together the kits. Many are done, but there are many to go! They are all glad to be a part of this project which will help the girls of Peru be better able to attend school regularly. Anyone can join them for the fun in the process! Kudos to Barb Whitaker and Nancy Eisenhower for coming up with the project and making it happen.



Illinois Conference of Churches will embrace fundraising in the coming year through music. They will hold One Voice ecumenical concerts all over the state. **The first church to volunteer was ISC's own United in Faith Church in Pana.** Pastor Joel Jackle-Hugh, Pastor of Pana United in Faith Church, and their choir director Whitney Hill have generously volunteered to begin the series on April 7, 2019. The basic format for these concerts will include Christian music of all genres, plus some solos and congregational singing. Any choir director from any church in the community and a church volunteering its sanctuary can be involved. The ICC will pay a stipend to the choir director, organist/pianist and sound board system operator. A free will offering will be taken with proceeds going to the ICC. Some concerts will also include special instruments such as brass or drums. Music has always been an important part of ecumenism as beautiful voices from diverse Christian backgrounds blend together at the ICC Annual Assembly worship service. Watch future ICC newsletters for dates of upcoming One Voice concerts. If your church would like to host a concert, contact Laurie Vial at 217-522-7099 or laurie@illinoisconferenceofchurches.org.



Love Given to the Families of Ecuador by Blanca Puma, FEDICE

"Meanwhile these three virtues remain; faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

For many years, FEDICE has been guided by these three virtues. Yet Love is the one FEDICE keeps most in mind when working with families. Thank you, to all donors for your faith in FEDICE. The seeds you have

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

[Hitz Memorial Home](#)

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[LIFE Program](#)

[Neighborhood Houses](#)

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

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

[Uplands Village](#)

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Pray for...

Prayer list for Dec 16 - Dec 22, 2018 Churches & Pastors

- Biddleborn Trinity UCC, Pastor Nancy (Scott) Shubert
- Brighton St. John UCC, Rev. Laurie (Amy Brooks) Crelly

scattered in Ecuador have been multiplied exponentially!

This last year, FEDICE and their expert agrarian and economic specialists have helped 17 communities develop successful projects. Their faith goes beyond profitable milk, onion, cattle, sheep, guinea pig, and chicken production. As well as commercial activities, community recipients improve their quality of life (especially women and children) and enhance their Indigenous, Afro Ecuadorian and Mestizo communities. They also have their faith in Jesus Christ strengthened through some of FEDICE's programs. The women and children of



Ecuador are very important to them.

At left is Gladys Moreno / Age: 53 - Romerillos, showing her cows to Mary Kathryn, Fedice volunteer.

Gladys Moreno said, "FEDICE has allowed me to grow in several ways and I feel happy because I can contribute financially to my family and all this support has allowed me to give my children an education, which is a great inheritance for them. The best thing of all is that over the years I have become a woman who participates, who thinks and decides without any fear because the foundation allowed me to grow economically and above all to feed my spirit in a way that makes me feel valuable to

my family and my community."

FEDICE's work is aimed at children from disadvantaged communities. Where FEDICE operates, children receive good nutrition, instruction in grooming and good habits; learn some English (which can lead to better employment,) and recreational opportunities through FEDICE's staff, volunteers, and their mothers. They focus on children having strong roots and better opportunities in their future.

Through the last 24 years of service, FEDICE has felt and seen positive changes in their communities. It is not only a better economy, but they see good changes in children and youth thanks to their donors, staff, and volunteers. Not only are our projects profitable, the profits are re-invested in good nutrition, healthy home life, and savings. There have been both economic and spiritual benefits. FEDICE invites you to volunteer. Come for three to six days or more. Meet the people of the communities. See the love they share with those who are in need. Meet the children. Make a difference in Ecuador. One reason for their focus on the children is that they are the future. They will be the ones to continue to find better solutions for the living conditions of their families and communities. FEDICE does not give help; they SOW HELP, for in the future, these children will be the professionals, they will solve the problems in their communities. FEDICE feels they are sowing with faith, joy, and hope!

Thank you for your past important investments in each project. Your donations have been invested with love in 17 communities, in 355 families, in 1,420 children. In the future, the children will provide strong roots like an olive tree and will be ready to overcome all difficulties with the necessary tools, which your donations have helped to give to them.

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



Retired Pastor

- Rev. Paul and Marilyn Thompson, Jr., Red Bud, 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 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

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.

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's 3 Great Loves encourages us to share hope during the Season of Advent. Monday: Serve; Tuesday: Unplug; Wednesday: Upcycle; Thursday: Give; Friday: Feed; Saturday: Arrange. See how you may incorporate these ideas. Click [here](#).

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 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.



Global Ministries presents a live update on the *restavek* situation in Haiti with Polycarpe Joseph of the Ecumenical Foundation for Peace and Justice/House of Hope on Wednesday, December 12 at 10 am CST. The *restavek* system is a form of modern-day child slavery that persists in Haiti, affecting one in every 15 children. Typically born into poor, rural families, *restavek* children are often given to relatives or strangers. In their new homes, they become domestic slaves, performing menial tasks for no pay. This webinar aims to analyze the children's migration within Haiti and to describe the phenomenon of the *restavek* system, as well as share the work of accompaniment and solidarity that the Ecumenical Foundation for Peace and Justice/House of Hope develops with the children. To register, click [here](#).

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.

The space request form is due Monday, December 17.



SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.**

YOU ARE INVITED to a FREE VBS SHOWCASE St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville on Friday, January 4, 2019 from Noon-2 pm. It is intended for anyone wanting to view the 2019 VBS curriculum options before purchasing. Lunch will be provided by St. John's Church Youth Ministries Team. RSVP to Dana by January 2 at 618-344-2526 or faithhall@stjohnuucc.org.

GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

Joy to the world!
Our Christmas gift is here.
A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes
Was given without a tear.

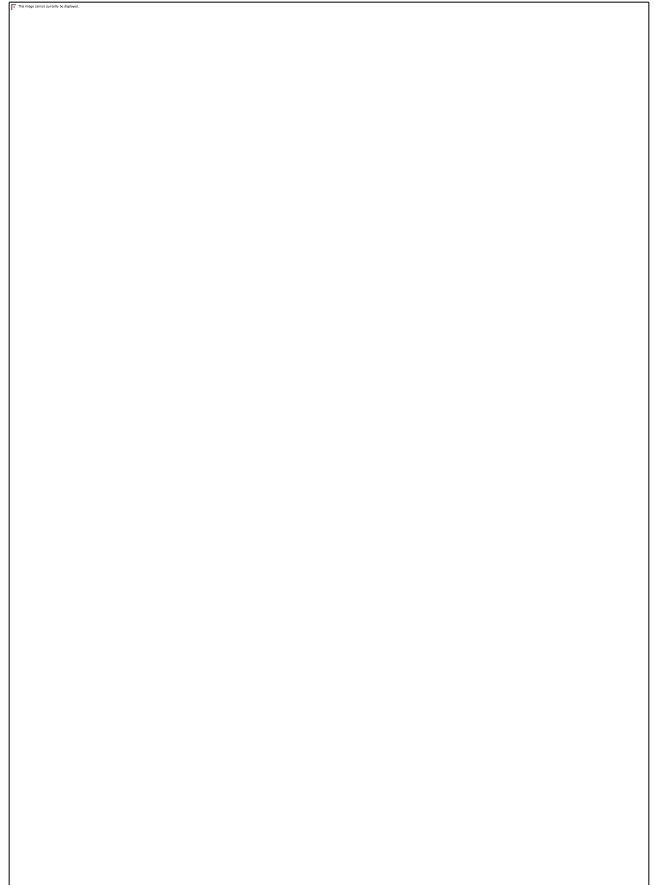
The baby, just an infant,
Has lighted up a star
Which brought the wandering shepherds
To worship from afar.

Praise the Lord!
The star has brought three kings
To praise this baby, Jesus,
Who will grow to do His thing.

Now we know life isn't easy
For a baby born without.
But material wealth didn't stop this child
From preaching "Cut it out!"

Stop the warring and pretending.
Stop judging one and all.
The Lord loves and gave his son
So we can all stand tall.

God loves and loves and loves us
No matter what we do.
Just trust it all to Jesus.
It's His Christmas gift to you.
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DuBois Center News

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



Follow Us on Instagram

Winter is a beautiful time here at DuBois Center. Be sure to follow us on [Instagram](#) so you don't miss out on any of the great scenery! Also, be on the lookout for pictures of events, guest groups, horses and the occasional barn cat.



Spring Horse Rides – Plan NOW!

Now is the time to schedule a horse ride for your springtime birthday party, family reunion, team-building retreat, youth gathering or scout outing. Spend time exploring some of DuBois Center's 5+ miles of trails, soaking in some amazing biodiversity on horseback, and

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

Moderate to strong swimmer? Enjoy spending time at the lake? 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 at 618-787-2202 or [email](#). Happy swimming!



VACATION REQUEST DUE?

Consider a week (or even a few days) at DuBois Center and join our Summer Camp 2019 team! WANTED: fun, engaging and caring volunteers to serve as nurses, chaplains, cabin counselors, time-off counselors, activity specialists and barn helpers. Minimum age is 18 for

then maybe gather around the campfire for a picnic lunch. Only six riders are needed to schedule time with the horses. The maximum per ride time slot is 12. Larger groups can be accommodated with multiple rides. For more information, contact the DuBois Center Office at 618-787-2202 or [email](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org).

most positions; young adults and older adults are welcome. Give of your time and talent, make a difference and gain a wonderful sense of satisfaction... and even perhaps a bit of joy! For more information, check out the volunteer [page](#) of our web site or contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

SUMMER JOBS - Make a Difference this Summer!

Summer is just around the corner and staff recruitment kicks off this month. Energetic, child-focused and fun-loving - sound like you or someone you know? Check out the Summer of Service [flyer](#) and consider whether an amazing summer at DuBois Center might be just the opportunity you have been looking for. Gain practical experience and build your resume. Positions include cabin counselors/activity leaders, barn assistant/counselors and coordinators. FAITH. FUN. HARD WORK. GREAT FRIENDS. LONG HOURS. AMAZING MEMORIES. Applications are now available [online](#) or 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!



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries



Caring compassionately for aging and disabled people since 1985

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.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

OFFICE & EVENT COORDINATOR at DUBOIS - 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.

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.

Merry Christmas to Region 1

Carbondale, *Church of the Good Shepherd*
 DuQuoin, *St. John's*
 Marion, *Zion*
 Metropolis, *Zion*
 Murphysboro, *St. Peter's*
 Pinckneyville, *St. Paul*

Merry Christmas to Region 2

Columbia, *St. Paul*
 Dupo, *Christ*
 Evansville, *St. John*
 Floraville, *St. Paul*
 Hecker, *Friedens*
 Maeystown, *St. John*
 New Hanover, *Zoar*
 Red Bud, *St. Peter*
 Valmeyer, *St. John*
 Waterloo, *St. Paul*
 Waterloo, *Zion*

Merry Christmas to Region 3

Cahokia, *Bethel*
 Collinsville, *St. John Evangelical*
 Dupo, *First Congregational*
 Edwardsville, *Eden*
 Edwardsville, *St. Paul*
 Granite City, *St. John*
 Granite City, *St. Peter Evangelical*

Merry Christmas to Region 4

Brighton, *St. John*
 Carlinville, *St. Paul*
 Fieldon, *Fieldon*
 Godfrey, *Congregational*
 Godfrey, *Evangelical*
 Jerseyville, *Peace*
 Moro, *St. John's Church of Midway*
 Wood River, *St. John*

Merry Christmas to Region 5

Alhambra, *Salem*
 Breese, *St. John's*
 Grantfork, *Grantfork*
 Hamel, *Immanuel*
 Highland, *Evangelical*
 Jamestown, *St. Paul*
 Marine, *Marine*
 St. Jacob, *St. Jacob*
 Staunton, *St. Paul*
 Summerfield, *St. John*
 Troy, *Friedens*

Merry Christmas to Region 6

Carlyle, *Immanuel*
 Central City, *Zion*
 Centralia, *St. Peter*
 Farina, *Friedens*
 Hookdale, *St. Peter*
 Ohlman, *St. Paul's*
 Pana, *United in Faith Church*
 Tower Hill, *St. Paul*

Merry Christmas to Region 7

Addieville, *Zion*
 DuBois, *St. Mark's*
 Hoyleton, *Zion Evangelical*
 Irvington, *Friedens*
 Johannsburg, *St. John's*
 Nashville, *St. Paul*
 Okawville, *St. Paul*
 Okawville, *St. Peter's*
 Plum Hill, *St. John's*
 Stone Church, *St. Peter's*

Merry Christmas to Region 8

Biddleborn, *Trinity*
 Darmstadt, *Holy Ghost*
 Freeburg, *St. Paul's*
 Lebanon, *St. Paul*
 Lenzburg, *St. Peter's*
 Marissa, *Friedens*
 Mascoutah, *St. John*
 New Athens, *St. John*
 New Baden, *Zion*
 Trenton, *St. John*

Merry Christmas to Region 9

Belleville, *Christ*
 Belleville, *Concordia*
 Belleville, *St. Paul*
 Belleville, *Trinity*
 E. St. Louis, *Good Shepherd of Faith*
 Fairview Heights, *St. John*
 O'Fallon, *O'Fallon*
 Smithton, *St. John's*

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 7 pm. (Note time correction from last week.) It features the Chancel Choir, B Street Band, and the Glory Ringers. Enter on C Street. All are invited.

The St. Louis Symphony Brass Quintet returns to O'Fallon UCC in O'Fallon on Sun, Dec 23 at 9:45 am throughout the worship service. Come and enjoy as they share their amazing talents.

Region 9

O'Fallon UCC in O'Fallon will host an Irish/Scottish group "Celtica" on Sun, Dec 16 at 5 pm. It will perform beautiful and unique Celtic holiday music, including traditional carols, plus Celtic arrangements of Christ Child's Lullaby, Wexford Carol (12th Century); On Christmas Night (17th Century); The Holly Bears a Berry, and more. All are invited.