

Weekly Connection

For the Week of January 27, 2019 - February 2, 2019
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

**Nancy Berry, St. John's Community Care, Commends
Bart Bieser: Bart's the Best!**

Bart Bieser, member of St. John Evangelical UCC, and St. John's Community Care's second-most senior staff member has been keeping their facility spotless since 1986, when St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville allocated office space in the Education Building to their ministries.

Bart not only cleans, but he anticipates tasks which need doing and does them without being asked. That includes stripping and waxing tile floors, setting clocks when the time changes, changing light bulbs, and doing required inspection of our emergency lighting system. If a door sticks or a faucet leaks, he takes care of it. He has been a blessing to St. John's Community Care for 32 years.

When a family tours St. John's Collinsville Adult Day Center, many ask if the building is new. When they hear it was built in 2001, they marvel at how clean everything is. That's thanks to Bart! And he does all this on top of a full-time job and also cleaning for Learning Tree Preschool. What a guy.

Tarrah Vaupel (left), Member in Discernment from O'Fallon UCC, and her sister, Lyndsey Derber (right with her son, Nathan), a teacher at Lebanon Grade School and faculty coordinator for the Student Council, delivered gifts to Uni-Pres Kindercottage that were collected by the students in Lyndsey's class. Brenda Crisp thanked Tarrah Vaupel for introducing another group to the needs and ministry of Uni-Pres Kindercottage.



CALLING ALL PASTORS! - Pastors' Sabbath Retreat

As the new year begins, are you in need of a fresh start? The Illinois South Conference Local Church Ministries Team has designed an event just for you! All pastors are invited to register for a Pastor's Sabbath retreat on February 27 and 28 at the Doubletree in Mount Vernon. The event will

include a get together the first evening for fellowship and food. The next day will be filled with conversations and activities designed especially for you as a time of reflection and inspiration, as well as more food!

Cost is \$30 per person. Make check payable to and mail with the form to Illinois South Conference, 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249. We hope you are able to take advantage of this opportunity. It is our way of saying thanks for all you do for your congregation and the Conference. Click [here](#) for a registration form.

The Uni-Pres Kindercottage Board of Directors has begun the process to allow Ms. Brenda Crisp, UPK Director, to transition to retirement after over 50 years serving the children and families of East St.



Louis. Details for the process to fill the Director's role and Brenda's ongoing role with UPK will be announced in the near future. Our goal is to have the new personnel in place by the end of June.

Now for the fun part. **There will be a party to honor Brenda's ministry with us, for us and to us in the Illinois South Conference and the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery.** The Once Every 50 Years Golden Gala Event will be held on Saturday, June 29. Please save the date for this celebration of the lives

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](#)

[Hoyleton](#)

[Insurance Board](#)

[LIFE Program](#)

[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
Jan 27 - Feb 2, 2019
Churches & Pastors**

- Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC, Pastor Nancy (Scott) Shubert
- DuBois St. Mark's UCC, Pastor Tom (Marcia) Ellison

transformed, the families served and Jesus' love made real over the last half century. If you are interested in being on the committee to help plan this event, please contact Rev. Mike Southcombe at msouthcm@aol.com. Hope to see you on June 29 to celebrate the legacy and build the future for Uni-Pres Kindercottage.

Retired Pastor

- Rev. David and Kathryn Riebeling, Fufts, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for First Congregational Church of Dupo as they mourn the death of their Treasurer, Gary Edwards, who passed away suddenly Saturday. Gary was extremely active in the church. Our prayers and thought are with his family.

- 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.

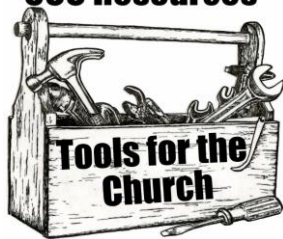
- Keep Pastor Don (Lois) Propeck in your prayers as he deals with some health issues. Don is the pastor of St. Paul UCC in Jamestown and is currently serving on the ISC Committee on Ministry. Cards may be sent to him at 2163 E 1150th Ave, Loogootee IL 62838.

- 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 Marilyn (Rev. Paul) Thompson in your prayers as she deals with health issues. Rev. Thompson is retired, but serves on the ISC Recruitment Committee. Cards may be sent to her at 910 Circle Drive, Red Bud, IL 62278.

UCC Resources



Registration Is Open for Day of Discipleship on February 23, 2019 at the St. Paul UCC in Belleville from 9:30 am - 2 pm (registration at 9 am). Hear presentations from the UCC General Legal Counsel, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA), Office of Philanthropy, and The Pension Boards of the UCC. Send several leaders of your church to find out more about resources that are available from the UCC denomination which will support your local church. Click [here](#) for the registration form and map to the church. A bulletin [insert](#)

will help you spread the word to your congregation. **Deadline for early-bird registration is February 10.**



The Metro East Food Pantry Coalition and the Illinois Extension will present *Volunteer & Client Safety: Warning Signs & Verbal De-escalation Techniques* on Wed, Jan 23 from 2 pm - 4 pm at the University of Illinois Extension, 1 Regency Plaza, Suite 200, Collinsville, IL 62234. Speakers and resources include: John P. Crum LCPC, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Program Director of Addiction

Treatment Strategies; Madison County Deputy Collin J Reckman, Triad Middle School, School Resource Officer; and Madison County Deputy Kip D Heinle, Triad High School, School Resource Officer. Speak with any food pantry volunteer, they love what they do and have a deep seeded commitment to those they serve! Sometimes challenging and potentially dangerous situations arise in pantry spaces, putting both their clients and volunteers at risk. Please join us for a discussion on warning signs, verbal de-escalation tips and when to call authorities. This is open to staff and volunteers who work in emergency food settings. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

Festival of Faith

Calling a youth in Grades 6 -8 and their chaperones. Get ready for Festival of Faith 2019!

Saturday, February 16 at 2 pm to Sunday, February 17 at 2 pm.

Theme: "Catch Fire"---The media, movies, books, and politics all seem to discuss the theme of uprisings which are being done in local grassroots efforts (think: Hunger Games, Divergent, Maze Runner). This may seem new, but even Jesus saw this in His time. Jesus encouraged his disciples and followers to be out there spreading the news of God's love and desire for us to care for and love our neighbors. He wants us to "catch fire" for God!

[Here](#) are all the materials needed for you to register your youth group. The entire group's registration forms should be at the Illinois South Conference, postmarked by **FEBRUARY 4, 2019.**



HOUSING ADVOCACY FAIR

HOSTED BY EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
475 E LOCKWOOD AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63119

On Feb 3, Faith and For the Sake of All is holding a Housing Equity Fair on the grounds of Eden Theological Seminary from 1 pm - 3:30 pm. The Housing Equity Fair will feature many of the housing groups which contributed to the, "Segregation in St. Louis: Dismantling the Divide" report and will premiere the new Faith and For the Sake of All "Mobilizing the Faithful Housing" workshop. Housing groups will speak

FEBRUARY 3, 2019 • 1 PM - 5:30 PM

to their particular connection to the report's findings and will provide attendees with examples of concrete actions they can take to dismantle the housing divide in St. Louis. The event is co-sponsored by Jewish Community Relations Council, We Stories, The YWCA, Eden and Faith & for the Sake of All. Click [here](#) for more information or to register:



1 Year or 1 Summer Can Change You and Your World

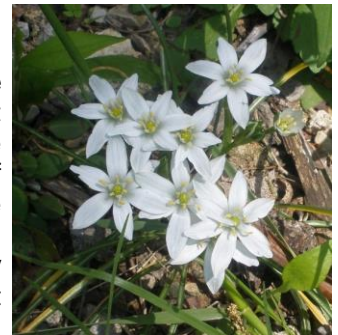
As the United Church of Christ, we are involved in forming faith-based justice leaders. Two programs are offered to do just that, the year-long [Young Adult Service Communities](#) (of the United Church of Christ) for ages 21-35 and the [Summer Communities of Service](#) (of the UCC & Alliance of Baptists) for ages 19+. Click the links above to find out more. Participants serve 32 hours a week with a community agency partnering with the host church in direct service or advocacy. They serve 4-6 hours in a position with the host church(es). Two hours a week are set aside for the group to meet with a Spiritual Sojourner (discussion guide & mentor). Each person receives a monthly stipend, housing, and health insurance. Assistance in applying for student loan forbearance is provided. Participants grow personally, professionally and spiritually, while fostering community and promoting justice - practicing skills and exploring questions of meaning and purpose that form faith based justice leaders. Participants are sought from any faith background or no faith background. On-line applications are open. Placement interviews begin in early January for the Summer Communities and February 15 for the year-long Young Adult Service Communities. Placements are made on a rolling basis. Contact Mary Schaller Blaufuss, UCC national Office at blaufusm@ucc.org or 216-736-3214 with questions.

DuBois Center News

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

GREEN DUBOIS - Stewardship Opportunity - Saturday, February 16

Join the team and make a difference! Removing invasive species, such as Japanese honeysuckle, is the priority for the day. Invasives 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, rescue wildlife habitat, support native plants and help ensure the future of DuBois Center's wonderful woodlands. No special skills are needed. Dress for the weather - layers recommended - and bring lopping shears if you have them. Minimum Age: 16, unless accompanied by a parent. Lunch will be provided. Please **RSVP by MONDAY, FEB 11**. For more information or to sign up, contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



FATHER-SON RETREAT March 29-31

Fathers, Grandfathers and Uncles - SAVE THE DATE and plan now to bring your sons, grandsons, nephews or another significant young man in your life to DuBois Center for a weekend of quality guy time! Fish, hike, canoe and just hang out together. Make cool crafts, share in vespers and work on your archery skills. Horseback riding is available for an additional fee. Lodging is in heated cottages and Hickory Lodge. All ages are welcome, though activities are geared for boys age 5 and older.



Families participate together. Rev. RJ Morgan will be returning as our chaplain for the weekend. **Registration opens February 1**. Watch for details. Questions? Contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



BUNCO NIGHT-Sat, Feb 9

All are invited to join Region 2 for an evening of fun and fellowship. Gather the family, some friends, or your youth group. This entertaining, somewhat frenzied dice game is so easy to learn, anyone can play! The doors at St. Paul UCC in Columbia will open at 6:30 pm, and the game will begin at 7 pm. The cost to play is just \$10 per person, but WAIT - there's more. There will be a 50/50 drawing and a silent auction. Funds raised go to support ministry at DuBois Center. In addition, nutritious, non-perishable food items will be collected for Kindercottage. Save the date and spread the word! Click [here](#) for a flyer to share.



Think Summer & SWIM!

Moderate to strong swimmer? Enjoy spending time at the lake? Enjoy working with children and youth? 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 shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org. Happy swimming!



WRANGLE & RIDE

Saturday, April 13

Join our equestrian team on Saturday, April 13 from 9 am - 5 pm for a full day of fun with the DuBois Center herd! Designed for both beginner and more experienced riders, this is a horse-intensive day of grooming, tacking, riding, instruction and other horse-related activities. Beginners will be introduced to basic skills, while experienced riders work on more advanced options. The cost for this event is \$65 with lunch included. **Online registration begins February 1.** Questions? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

MORE than just another SUMMER JOB!

Energetic, child-focused, fun-loving with a heart for ministry - sound like you or someone you know? Check out this [flyer](#) and consider whether an amazing summer at DuBois Center might be just the opportunity you have been looking for. Positions include cabin counselors/activity leaders, barn assistant/counselors and coordinators. FAITH. FUN. HARD WORK. GREAT FRIENDS. LONG HOURS. AMAZING MEMORIES. Gain practical experience, build your resume and make a difference! Job descriptions and application packets are available [online](#).

Questions? Contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



"I SPY" a Very Cool Quilt

Pictured is a section of the 2019 DuBois Raffle Quilt "I SPY", made by the Happy Quilters of St. John UCC, Mascoutah. Based on the popular books of picture riddles, the quilt has 120 different fabrics which only adds to the challenge of finding the hidden objects. It is 70 x 80 inches of fun! Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and all proceeds go to DuBois Center. Click [here](#) for tickets that you can print and mail to the church. St. John UCC, Mascoutah matches all money that the Happy Quilters raise, so each dollar you donate is two dollars for DuBois Center. Members of the Happy Quilters have already been out visiting area churches with the traveling quilt. To see this work of art LIVE, catch up with it at the following churches:



February 10 - St. Paul UCC Lebanon
March 10 - Grantfork UCC - Grantfork

March 24 - St. Peter's UCC - Okawville
April 7 - Christ UCC - Dupo

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!



Get Tickets Now! Hoyleton Youth & Family Services' *A Night for Heroes 2019 Salute* will be held on February 22, 2019 at the Four Points by Sheraton. It will be their salute to everyone that makes Hoyleton's work possible. A cash bar at 6 pm kicks off the evening followed by a wonderful dinner at 7 pm. *A Night for Heroes* culminates with Awards, the Fund-the-Need auction that provides support to every one of Hoyleton's nearly 20 programs and services for nearly 3,000 youth and families throughout southern Illinois - and, music and dancing with Butchwax and the Hollywoods! This year's emcee will be Cory Stark, co-anchor at KMOV-TV. Individual tickets are \$50/person. Sponsorships available. Contact Amanda Garrison at agarrison@hoyleton.org or 618-688-4742.

As Hoyleton Youth & Family Services continues to expand its mission and impact the lives of even more youth and families throughout Illinois, their office space has expanded, too. Please join them for a special dedication of Hoyleton's expanded office space on the third floor of their executive offices featuring the Donn Willeford Training Center on Friday, February 8 beginning at 3 pm until 5 pm. The expanded space will be the location for Hoyleton's rapidly expanding Counseling Care and Puentes de Esperanza programs. The space features offices, counseling rooms, family rooms, and art and play therapy rooms to meet the diverse needs of the youth and families they support. The floor also features staff offices, a new training room and board room. In addition, to honor the incredible work and impact Donn Willeford had on Hoyleton for over 26 years in a variety of roles, they are dedicating the new training room in his honor. Donn's daughter Jennifer will take part in the dedication. Light refreshments will be served and tours of the new space will be led by members of the Hoyleton team.

St. John's Community Care Presents Savvy Caregiver Training. The 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, Jan 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 from 2 pm - 4 pm at St. John Evangelical UCC, West Conference Room, 307 W Clay St, Collinsville. For more information or to register, call 618-344-5008. Download [poster](#).

St. John's Community Care will hold a Themed Gift Basket Auction at Ravanelli's, #26 Collinsport Dr in Collinsville throughout the month of February. Take your sweetheart to Ravanelli's and place a bid for the baskets. Baskets will include a variety of offerings and will be awarded to the highest bidder at the end of February. All money raised from the auction will be used to support caregiver training sessions and support groups.



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.



Join the Eden Community on Feb 8 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm for the annual Bracke Lecture at Eden Theological Seminary. This year, speaker Ann Garrido, D. Min will talk about *Redeeming Administration: The Invitation Hidden in the Clutter on Your Desk*. Ms. Garrido says, "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, Ms. Garrido will look at practices of administration that can be potentially transformative, making us not only effective administrators but holier, healthier Christians. There is no cost to attend the lecture.

Lecturer: Ann Garrido, D. Min is associate professor of homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. Ms. Garrido is the author of eight books, including the award-winning volumes *Redeeming Administration* (Ave Maria Press, 2013) and *Redeeming Conflict* (Ave Maria Press, 2016). She now commits half-time

to traveling nationally and internationally doing conflict education and mediation work with Triad Consulting Group, founded by two members of the Harvard Negotiation Project based in Cambridge, MA. Ann Garrido's books will be for sale in the Eden Bookstore the prior to and the day of the lecture. She will be available for a book signing after her lecture. For more information or to [register](#).

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Rev. Phil Kershner (pastor at Marine UCC) has published a book titled, *Why the United States Is A Morally Good Country: A View From the Center*. It is available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle formats. Click [here](#) to take a look.

Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan will teach an Interim Ministry 1 course in conjunction with the Center for Congregational Health (CCH). The course is open to authorized clergy and currently enrolled seminarians of all faiths. Rev. Morgan is currently the Interim Sr. Pastor for St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville.
Interim Ministry Training (IM1)

When: Wed. Feb. 20 at 10:00 am - Fri. Feb. 22 at 4:00 pm, 2019

Where: St. John Evangelical UCC, Collinsville, IL 62234 USA
(The Theater and Fellowship Hall)

Local Contacts: Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan - Faculty
440-550-2842
Rev. Dr. Heather Arcovitch - Course Coordinator
203-687-9172

Instructors: Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan, Certified IIM and Church Consultant Faculty, CCH and also D. Min. Faculty, Interdenominational Theo. Center, Atlanta, GA

Rev. Dr. Les Robinson, CCH Faculty (retired), Associate D. Min. Faculty, ITC and Manager, Interim Ministry Resources and IIM Curriculum Editor

Cost is \$700 which includes tuition, materials and snacks.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Congratulations to Rev. Herb (Bennie) Schafale as he celebrates his service to St. Paul UCC in Belleville. Join them on Sun, February 3 for a special day honoring an extraordinary man who has served for the past 19 years as visiting pastor for St. Paul UCC in Belleville and the 60 years of his Ordained Ministry.

Region 7

St. Peter's UCC in Okawville will hold its Wurst Markt on Sun, Feb 10 in their Educational Building from 3 pm - 7 pm. The All-You-Can-Eat menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, pie or dessert, and drink. Adults \$11; Children 6 - 12 years \$5; Children 5 and under Free. All carry outs \$11. Please place meat/sausage orders by Feb 5 to Melinda Albers at 618-243-5354.

Region 9

The Region 9 Youth Mission Event will be on Sun, Feb 10 beginning at 1 pm at O'Fallon UCC, 206 W Adams, O'Fallon. The youth will make 50 Valentine boxes for Kindercottage. They will also prepare colored, plastic bags for use in making mats for the homeless.
Supplies are needed: Valentine gift wrap, wrapped Valentine candy, printed Valentine cards (packages for little ones, think school); plastic bags to make "plarn" or plastic yarn. If you crochet and would like to take some of the plastic yarn and crochet a mat or two, they will get instructions and materials to you.

Region 9

Christ UCC in Belleville will hold its 40th Annual Wurstmarkt on Sun, Jan 27 from 11 am - 4 pm. All you can eat pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, applesauce and coffee or tea and dessert. Adults \$11; Children ages 6-9 - \$5; Carry outs available!