

Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 3, 2019 - February 9, 2019
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference... John Holst Named Marion's 2019 Citizen of the Year

by Holly Kee

Reprinted from the *Marion Republican*

Photo of Rev. John Holst Is Courtesy of Amanda Byassee Gott

Marion's newest "Citizen of the Year" is quick to share the credit for the multitude of accomplishments that earned him the honor at Saturday's Chamber of Commerce

Annual Gala.

John Holst, the pastor and teacher at Zion United Church of Christ, was chosen for the honor.

Since arriving in Marion 10 years ago, Holst has sought ways to serve the community, part of Holst's "Call Agreement" when he and the congregation at Zion UCC discerned that God had brought them together.

Holst, along with his wife, Sara, who works as an early childhood educator at Marion's Jefferson Elementary School, has a passion for community service and outreach.

"Like anyone who would be considered for such an acknowledgment, I would want all to know that we live in an amazing community and I am just a vessel helping connect others with those blessings," Holst said.

Holst said he is "part of a team" that thrives in community service, but he is thrilled with the recognition.

"Is the word 'awesome' terrible?" he joked. "This is so special to me, my family, and my church family. I'm proud of my congregation."

Holst said even though his congregation is small, they are "a hardworking bunch for the people in this community," especially for those in need. "We're a team," he said.

"In the Marion community, I celebrate teachers who understand that hunger is the greatest challenge that many of their students face, not just getting their homework done.

"I celebrate the directors of The Promise who, at great cost to themselves, provide a safe setting for those who suffer from chronic hunger, homelessness, and, in many cases, undocumented mental health issues," he said. "I celebrate the hundreds of volunteers who hold the hands, prepare and serve the food to our guests at the Marion Ministerial Alliance and the Lighthouse Shelter.

"I celebrate the volunteer and staff coaches who provide leadership, modeling, and direction to the vulnerable young in our community. I celebrate the thousands of citizens who come out at night to welcome home our veterans or heroes after a day of memories and tears in Washington, D.C.," he continued. "I celebrate parents who create a safe setting for not only their children but their children's friends who may not have a safe home. I thank them deeply for they are truly my heroes even as I might be the focus of this award."

Along with helping, Holst also believes in convincing others to take an interest in volunteering in their communities. He accomplishes this through his membership in Kiwanis Club, Rotary, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Providing a meal for those in need tops the list of things that Holst takes pride in.

"Last year, Zion teamed up with the First United Methodist Church to being a TWIGS program," he said.

That program provides a daily meal to children during the summer when the school lunch is not available, a time when many children may not have access to a daily lunch.

Holst said the program was held at Pyramid Park and served about 40 children each day.

"It was so wonderful to see the kids walking together to come to the program each day," he said. "We had a picnic in the park each day."

Important Links

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duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

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[Insurance Board](#)

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[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

Feb 3 - Feb 9, 2019

Churches & Pastors

- Dupo Christ UCC, Rev. Todd (Suzanne) Mushaney

- Dupo First Congregational UCC, Rev. Dr. Bob (Jay) E. Lee

It was so successful that the group will host a second location on the north side of Marion this summer.

"The program costs \$3,000, so this year, we'll have to double that," said Holst. He pointed out that both churches have small congregations, so raising the funds will require hard work.

"Both churches are committed," he said. "We're a team. I am blessed to live in a community that has a profound understanding of empathy and what it truly means to have be the face of Christ before another."



Green DuBois Is Starting to Buzz

The cold winter months have been a time of planning for the Green DuBois team, and there are **many ways you can lend your time and talents.**

- Our next meeting is **Sat, Feb 2, from 2 pm-3:30 pm**, in Oak Lodge at DuBois Center. Come join us to hear about upcoming plans, including Green DuBois Lenten devotional, a photography retreat weekend, reviving some garden areas at camp, and the arrival of bees - yes, bees! We're in the initial stages of planning for beehives, with the help of our own John Pawloski, Pastor at St. Peter UCC in Centralia and experienced beekeeper. Bees support all three branches of the Green DuBois program by pollinating our native plants, providing learning opportunities for campers and visitors, and eventually producing honey and wax that will bring people and revenue to camp.

- Our next Stewardship Day is **Sat, Feb 16, from 8 am-1 pm**. The group will spread out, with a larger crew working on invasive species removal. Targeted species will be multiflora rose and bush honeysuckle. No experience necessary, bring your own work gloves and loppers if you have them. A smaller crew will load a dumpster with debris from around the lumber shed. Dress for the weather. Minimum age is 16, unless accompanied by a parent. Lunch will be provided. We'll work through to 1 pm, then have lunch. Please **RSVP by MON, FEB 11**. For more information or to sign up, contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

The Green DuBois Team is looking for:

- **Rain barrels**, either commercially made or repurposed 55 gallon plastic drums that have not contained chemicals. These will be installed later this spring when gutting is added to the Nature's Classroom building.

- **Beekeeper Apprentices** - we're looking for one or two people who want to learn the craft of beekeeping. If you've always been curious about bees, this is an opportunity for hands-on learning with someone who already knows the ropes.

- **Donations** - with a generous donation from the Illinois South Conference, Green DuBois has some seed money to start purchasing tools, beekeeping supplies, and develop a website. We will definitely need more funds as we start several initiatives and start to grow the program. If your congregation has fifth Sunday offerings earmarked for mission, consider making one for Green DuBois. If you'd personally like to support this program, send donations to the Illinois South Conference office marked Green DuBois.

Green DuBois is an initiative with three branches: Encouraging people to come see the amazing biodiversity we have at our outdoor ministry facility; actively managing our forests and woodland habitat; and increasing our ecological sustainability. If you want to find out more information or would like to join the team contact Jill Baker at GreenDuBois@aol.com. Share this with your friends, too. You do not have to be UCC to be part of the Green DuBois team.

Are You Ready for an Adventure?

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." --Isaiah 41:10 ESV

About a year ago, my sister moved from Kansas City to Los Angeles, California to pursue a new position within another division of her company. Although my parents were excited for her and this new adventure, they also were quite afraid of the changes this would bring for them. You see my parents do not fly. Up until this point, they primarily traveled by car, dad doing the driving, and Mom either knitting or sleeping in the passenger seat.

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter, Hamel, 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.

- 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, Dupon 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.

When my sister went to graduate school in Arizona, my parents drove and moved her out in their van. Their follow-up trips to visit her were rare because of the distance and the time necessary to make the drive. I cannot imagine how pleased they were when she finished graduate school and immediately found a job in Kansas City.

Other than the few years my sister lived in Arizona, for most of our adult lives, all of us kids (my brother, sister and I) have always lived within reasonable driving distance of my parents. Thus, air travel was not necessary. Therefore, my sister's recent move caused a great deal of anxiety for my parents. It had been a long time since they had made a long-distance car trip. They worried they might not see her new home, her new office, and her new city.

For Father's Day last year, my sister gave them a Southwest gift card to cover the costs of air travel. Yet, it wasn't the cost of flights that was the problem. It was because airplanes were not how they traveled. It was not what they were familiar with, what they knew, and what they had always done. In short, they were fearful of all of the unknowns.

My husband and I told Mom and Dad that we would take some vacation days to accompany them on a trip to California to visit my sister. We promised to help them through the entire process from buying the airplane tickets online, to going through security at the St. Louis airport, to driving in LA and navigating LAX for the flight back home. I challenged myself to see things through the eyes and experience of persons who had not traveled in any other way than being in the driver's seat per se.

Seeing the trip through my parents' eyes was educational and a bit transformative to me. I tried to prepare them for each step and what they might experience. As I broke down the process of travel step by step, I could readily see how it all seemed strange, confusing, and overwhelming because they had never done it that way.

Church growth experts and church leaders in general often remark that the two of the most common statements of a dying church are "But we've never done it that way before" and "But we always do it this way." I too have offhandedly joked about these statements out of frustration that a church would not try something new. Yet, watching my parents step out of their comfort zone, face their fears and try something new, I understood not just the courage it took, but the coaxing and coaching it took along the way for them to tackle the unknown.

The same is true for those of us in the church. It is not enough to talk simply about the changes we must embrace. I think it is necessary to spend time talking about why, what it might look like, what makes us anxious or fearful and how we might prepare for the unexpected.

For example, in our conversations with my Mom before our trip to California, when she would question her own sanity of agreeing to fly, I would focus on WHY we were making the trip. I tried to anticipate what things might make them the most anxious during the process and explain what they could expect.

We even went through a practice session of going through security by setting up a mock conveyor belt and baskets in the living room to explain what they would do in the TSA line. It became evident that the more they understood what they might encounter, the more prepared they felt, and the more comfortable they were in doing something so new.

The highlights of the trip for me were: watching them take pictures from the airplane and talk on the beauty of the skyline, seeing the pride on their faces as they toured my sister's workplace, experiencing the sights and sounds of LA with them, and hearing them explain to my sister how uneventful (despite some heavy turbulence) the flight was.

The truth is none of that would have been possible if my parents were not willing to be honest about their fears, ask questions, and being willing to learn and experience something new and outside of their comfort zone. It took great courage and bravery and the reward was a great adventure.

In the Church, it will take great courage and bravery to face our fears and anxieties for stepping in the unknowns, those things we have never tried or done before. Now more than ever, I believe our growth both numerically and spiritually depends on our willingness to embark on a new adventure of trusting to walk and move where the Spirit of God will lead us.

However, I don't believe it has to be a maverick mission. I believe we can walk gently with one another--making space for asking questions, facing our fears, seeking direction and guidance from others who have traveled new paths, and taking the time to allow people to learn, process and explore. I believe a great adventure is on the horizon for the Church. May we be able to travel together helping each other step outside of our comfort zones and face our fears so that we may more fully see, experience and explore the new and fresh ways the Spirit of God is continuing to create the Kingdom of God.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 3 Preaching and leading a visioning session at Godfrey Congregational

February 10 Preaching at Evangelical United Church of Christ, Highland

February 24 Preaching at Zoar United Church of Christ, New Hanover for their 175th church anniversary

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 date. You can also send her an email at sjohnson@iscucc.org.

Festival of Faith - Calling all 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.**



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.

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.**



WISE UCC Mental Health Network presents Congregations for Mental Health Conference on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at the City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, California. It has been said, 'There is no health without mental health.' This convention will help to bring attention for an understanding about mental health in your congregation. If you cannot make it, perhaps you know someone who lives close enough to attend. Keep all who attend and the UCC Mental Health Network in your thoughts and prayers. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

CUE Seminaries Announces Seminary Sunday - Why Celebrate Seminary Sunday?

Our UCC seminaries are filled with faithful, committed students seeking the skills and wisdom necessary to lead the church in the 21st century. Our congregations need these students. In our region, we are blessed to have three fine UCC seminaries - Chicago, United, and Eden. Each of these seminaries provides quality education for pastors and lay leaders, and they provide research and resources that serve the entire UCC.

How to Celebrate Seminary Sunday

- Lift up our UCC seminaries and seminarians in prayer, in mission moments, and in your bulletins.
- Post materials about Chicago, Eden, and United Seminaries on bulletin boards.
- Include a special prayer or litany in your service.
- Show a five-minute CUE Seminaries DVD.
- Include a gift to CUE Seminaries in your church budget or to take a special offering.
- DVDs, bulletin inserts, posters, and offering envelopes are available at the CUE Seminaries website: <http://www.cueseminaries.org/>

Please join us on February 24 in supporting the current and future leadership of the UCC by celebrating Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries.

If you would like someone from a CUE Seminary to visit your congregation to help with worship leadership for Seminary Sunday, please contact:

Chicago Theological Seminary Chad Schwickerath (chad.schwickerath@ctschicago.edu or 773-896-2434)

United Theological Seminary Terri Burnor(tburnor@unitedseminary.edu or 633-4311)

Eden Theological Seminary Lorin Cope (lcope@eden.edu or 314-918-2549)

Each seminary will do its best to accommodate each request.



Langenberg Leadership Forum

Leadership for the Common Good

On Tues, Feb 12 from 7:30 am - 9 am at Eden Theological Seminary Schroer Commons, Langenberg Leadership Forum presents *Strong Leaders, Better Community* featuring speaker

Bishop Elijah Hankerson III, President of the St. Louis Metropolitan Clergy Coalition. What does it take to grow as a leader of impact? How do we as leaders balance serving our organizations? How do we as committed lay and clergy leaders bring our talents to bear on the problems we face in the St. Louis Region? What does it take to build broad-based collaborative efforts? The event is free and includes a light breakfast at no cost. Registration is required. Click [here](#).

United Church of Christ
Church Building
& Loan Fund



A NETWORK FOR
GROWING
STEWARDS

Need to energize and revitalize your church's strategies for faithful generosity? Does your church find it hard to talk about money? UCC Church Building & Loan Fund

would like to make you aware of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center's (ESC) "Generosity transformed! your mission*your ministry*your money Conference, April 30 - May 3, 2019 in Indianapolis. For complete conference information and to register, visit [ESC's website](#). UCC Church Building & Loan Fund can help your church with stewardship and much more! For more information about all the services we offer, please contact Priscilla Bizer, Regional Mission Interpreter, bizerp@ucc.org.

DuBois Center News

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



SERVICE SATURDAYS - March 23 & April 13

These are great opportunities for service during the season of Lent. Get outside, stretch your muscles and get a little dirty. Serve together with friends and family and make a difference! Your help is needed to spruce up the grounds for our busy spring and summer seasons. Projects vary, depending on the weather and the skills of the workers - carpentry, cleaning, painting, raking and more. Lunch is provided, as is most equipment. Check out this [flyer](#) for more information. **RSVP** to DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.



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 or 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. The weekend is geared for those 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

Saturday, February 9

Less than two weeks and counting! Join Region 2 for a night of winter blues-busting fun at St. Paul UCC in Columbia. Play BUNCO and support DuBois Center and Kindercottage - all at the same time! Bunco is an

exciting dice game that is easy to learn; children as young as 10 or 11 can be successful and have fun. Doors open at 6:30 pm; play begins at 7 pm. Cost to play

SUMMER BARN COORDINATOR

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 an opening for a dedicated summer barn coordinator. In addition to caring for our 20-horse herd, our summer barn team utilizes basic riding instruction and time "getting to know the ponies" to help



is \$10 per person. This year **Bunco Night** is being paired with an effort to "Fill the Cupboard" at Kindercottage. By February, the major food collection holidays are a distant memory and cupboards need restocking. Fun, fellowship and service! Help spread the word; invite everyone you know! Click [here](#) for a flyer to share.



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. For more information, check out the attached [flyer](#) and contact Shirley at [email](#) or 618-787-2202.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/2	Saturday	Green DuBois Meeting
2/9	Saturday	Bunco Night at St. Paul, Columbia (Sponsored by Region 2)
2/16-17	Sat-Sun	ISC Festival of Faith for Middle Schoolers
2/16	Saturday	Green DuBois Stewardship Day
3/23	Saturday	Wrangle & Ride - Horse Day Service Saturday - Lenten Work Day
3/29-31	Fri-Sun	Father - Son Retreat
4/10	Wed	Nature's Classroom Season Begins
4/13	Saturday	Wrangle & Ride - Horse Day Service Saturday - Lenten Work Day
4/27	Saturday	Green DuBois Stewardship Day
4/28	Sunday	DuBois THANK YOU Party
5/5	Sunday	Block Party for Middle Schoolers
5/20-22	Mon-Wed	Southern Illinois Art Workshop
5/29	Wed	Summer Camp Staff Training Begins
6/9	Sunday	1 st Day of Summer Camp 2019



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

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 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:



FEBRUARY 3, 2019 • 1 PM - 5:30 PM

HOUSING ADVOCACY FAIR

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



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 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](#).

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 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.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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.

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. It will begin at the 9 am worship service with a punch and cake reception following the service. Your presence is your gift.

Region 5

Staunton St. Paul UCC presents a Trivia Night on Sat, Feb 9 at the Staunton Country Club. Doors open at 6 pm and play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$15 per person for teams of 8-10 people. Cash prizes for First & Second place teams. Mulligans available for purchase. A special music round will feature the acoustic styling of Matt Larson from the high school. Silent Auction, Games, and 50/50 drawing. Bring your own snacks or purchase them at the Country Club. All alcohol must be purchased at the bar. Reserve a table at stpauluc@madisontelco.com or 618-635-2386. Proceeds help St. Paul UCC missions.

Region 6

United In Faith Church in Pana will host an ecumenical community Soup Supper on Sat, Feb 2 from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm to raise funds for Pana's local food pantry. Co-sponsoring the event are local Methodist, Catholic, Christian, Nazarene, and Southern Baptist churches with additional support from Life's Journey Senior Living, Kemmerer Village and Pana Community Hospital. This is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love within the community. Cost is by donation. All are welcome to join us.

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 8

Zion UCC in New Baden will host a Chili Dinner on Tues, Feb 12 from 4 pm - 7 pm at 414 W. Hanover St. Menu will include hot & mild chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, corn bread, hot dogs, salads, desserts, & beverages. Dine in or carry out. Bulk quantities available. For questions, call 618-588-4135.

Marissa Friedens UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sat, March 16 from 3 pm - 7 pm. All are welcome.

Region 9

St. Paul UCC in Belleville presents a Valentine Dinner Theater on Sat, Feb 9. Treat your Valentine to our very first St. Paul Fine Arts dinner theater. Our Culinaire's will be serving dinner at 6:30 pm as the mystery begins to evolve. Tickets are available for purchase every Sunday in January in the Welcome & Activity Centers and through Feb 4 from the church office. Cost is \$18 per person. Sweet Treat booths will also be offering goodies for purchase. This promises to be an intriguing evening of delicious food and "whodunit" fun.

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.