

# Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 10, 2019 - February 16, 2019  
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



**The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...  
United In Faith church of Pana along with several other churches and agencies banded together to support the local food pantry through the Souperbowl of Caring program.**

Together we raised close to 2000 food items plus financial donations. The food drive was capped off by a community Soup Supper on February 2. Pastor Jackle-Hugh said, "God works through all of us, especially when we work together."

## Notice of Bereavement and Services

The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Stavenger died Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at her home in St. Louis, MO. Rev. Dr. Stavenger was a retired professor at Eden Theological Seminary, a UCC pastor, and one of the founders of the Gateway ONA Convocation. Marilyn was an important and beloved member of the Eden community for over 40 years.



Beginning in 1975, Marilyn became a part of the fabric of Eden. She had become well known for her parish leadership and was invited to preach at Eden. Shortly after, Marilyn was invited to join Eden's board. "I fell in love with Eden," Marilyn said later. "Eden believed in nurturing community."

After 12 years on the Eden Board, Marilyn served as an Eden faculty member, Associate Professor for the Practice of Ministry and Director of Field Education. In 1994, she became a tenured professor. During this time, Marilyn developed the most comprehensive Field Education program among U.S. theological education. She retired from the Eden faculty after 16 years, in 2003. She remained close to Eden faculty, students and alumni even after retirement and was back often to spend time with the community she loved.

A memorial service for Reverend Doctor Marilyn Stavenger will be held on February 16, 2019 at 1:00PM. The service will be held at Peace United Church of Christ, 204 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO.

The service will be followed by a pie reception in the Wehrli Chapel at Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO. There will be an opportunity to share memories.

May God's comforting love continue to be with the friends and family of Marilyn.

## Thy Kingdom Come TODAY

*"He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

--Luke 4: 21

There is something intriguing to me about the story of Jesus speaking in his home synagogue. The Gospel of Luke tells the story in this way, *"Jesus was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. Jesus began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'*

"--Luke 4:15-21

Here is Jesus the hometown boy, who has returned as a man, and is asked to be the special guest, the special speaker of the day at his home synagogue. He

## Important Links

[iscucc.org/](http://iscucc.org/)

[duboiscenter.org](http://duboiscenter.org)

[ucc.org](http://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  
Feb 10 - Feb 16, 2019  
Churches & Pastors**

- DuQuoin St. John's UCC  
- East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith, Pastor Norma Patterson

reads the holy word for the day from the prophet Isaiah. Those who were gathered would know the word and message of the prophet. In fact, I would imagine as Jesus read from the scroll, there was a bit of head nodding and encouraging smiles.

They might have been intrigued to hear how Jesus would interpret the holy word in light of all that was happening around them. I imagine them leaning forward a bit in curiosity to hear what Jesus was speaking. What would Jesus-their neighbor, the carpenter's son that grew up in their streets along with their children, the one whom there was so much buzz about-have to say to them?

However, surprisingly, Jesus did not address the past promises God had made to their ancestors, nor the God inspired visions of the prophets for their future. Instead, Jesus makes a bold proclamation. I believe that radicalness of the proclamation can be summed up in one word-**TODAY**.

Jesus had the audacity to claim how the kingdom of God was being created, fulfilled **TODAY** in their midst, in their hearing. He dared to declare that in that very moment, in that day, in that time, the Spirit of the Lord was at work through HIM and through all those who were committed to the work of which the prophet Isaiah spoke.

The central message of Jesus was that the kingdom work of God is bringing good news to those who felt hopeless and without many options; is offering pardon and grace to those who had been bound up by poor choices or unfortunate life circumstances; is creating justice and equity for those who seldom were seen and heard. Furthermore, Jesus unapologetically announced when that work is being done and tended to, the kingdom of God is not merely close, but rather it is at hand, **TODAY**.

It might be shocking at first to consider the people's response to his message. Check it out and read on in the fourth chapter of Luke. Jesus' furious neighbors tried to throw him off a cliff!!

Surprising, yes. Yet, if we are honest with ourselves, I think we can see ourselves in the response and reaction of Jesus' community. Now we might never run a preacher off the cliff, but I imagine we would kibitz about the message in the parking lot or on the telephone with friends if the preacher dared to say WE are a part of "thy kingdom" coming and "thy will" being done through **US-TODAY**.

The truth is we spend very little time, energy, and resources on how we can do kingdom work in this moment, in this day or in this hour. Instead, we indulge in ruminating in the past and fixate on our fears for the future.

Don't get me wrong. There is value in considering past and future in the life of the Church, but if we are not willing and open to move forward, trust and look for the ways God is moving and present right in our midst today, there will be no future, no building of God's kingdom.

Jesus' message remains as important and urgent as ever: Today this promise has been fulfilled in your hearing. What we need in terms of God's spirit moving powerfully in the world is here, today, if we commit ourselves to the work of sharing the good news; working for justice and equity; offering grace to all people and including into the center, the voices, lives and people who are so often pushed to the edges.

Church, let us work toward building the kingdom of God's love, grace and truth right here, right now. Let us act, move, and respond to Jesus' invitation TODAY, so that others, and we ourselves, might experience how the Spirit of God is at work RIGHT NOW. Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conf. Minister

#### **SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**February 10** Worship at St. John's UCC, Moro

**February 17** Preaching at Evangelical UCC, Highland

**February 24** Preaching at Zoar UCC, 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 dates. You can also send her an email at [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org).

#### **Retired Pastor**

- Revs. Charles Preston and Karla Frost, Granite City, 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.

- 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.



**Gateway ONA's Eighth Annual Convocation, Open & Affirming: In Challenging Times will be held on Sat, March 2 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at Parkway UCC, 2841 North Ballas Rd, St Louis, Missouri 63131.**

Registration begins at 8:30 am. Coffee, pastries and fruit will be available and displays will be open. Registration is \$20 per person, which includes lunch or \$120 per church with 6 or more attending.

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations and other settings of the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

If you are an Open and Affirming congregation, talking about Open and Affirming or thinking about starting the conversation, if you want to explore how to be effective allies, there will be something for you and your church. Come be in conversation with others, learn what it means to be Open and Affirming and how to fully express extravagant welcome to all God's children.

Jeanette Mott Oxford will be the preacher/keynoter. She is the Executive Director of Empower Missouri; a graduate of Eden Seminary; a former Member of the Missouri House of Representative; and a member, with her wife, Dorothy Gannon, of Epiphany UCC in St. Louis.

Our worship leader is the Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship; and Associate Dean of the Chapel at Eden Theological Seminary. Christopher, his wife, Carla, and their children are members of Peace UCC.

It's a day of workshops, Eden Theological Seminary Bookstore, other displays, fellowship, food, and fun. Click [here](#) for a flyer and registration form. Questions, contact Lorin Cope, Convener, Gateway ONA, at [lcope@eden.edu](mailto:lcope@eden.edu).



**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. Even though the deadline has already passed, we are still accepting registration.

**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.**



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



**GREEN DUBOIS - Stewardship Day - 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 forests. This is a great opportunity to move those muscles and meet and work with others who care about the environment. We'll work to rescue wildlife habitat, support native plant populations 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](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.

**FUZZY PONIES!**

A question we get asked a lot at DuBois Center is, "What do you do with the horses in the winter?" The answer varies depending on the severity of the weather. Horses possess many adaptations to help them stay comfortable in

even the most extreme conditions. You might notice that our herd is fuzzier in the winter. Their thicker coats help insulate them from the cold, as well as retaining oil that repels moisture. Internally, their metabolism heats the horses from the inside out. As long as a horse has an adequate supply of hay and grain (which we provide) to fuel this "furnace," it will not suffer from lower temperatures. Short bouts of physical exertion, such as bucking and running as well as shivering, also help to heat up muscles and stabilize internal temperatures. During extreme conditions, like during the recent polar vortex, our horses come into the barn daily for an extra feeding. The barn is adapted as a wind shelter and left open on one end, allowing the horses to meander in and out at their leisure. In addition, there is a heated waterer outside the barn, providing the horses (and barn cats) with constant access to fresh water. So when the temperatures drop and wind speeds pick up, have no fear - a combination of horse anatomy and proactive care ensure the health of our herd.



### **BUNCO - This Saturday! - February 9**

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 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! Check out this [flyer](#) for details.



### **SPRING BROCHURE**

Spring is a great time of year at DuBois Center!

Signs of new life are everywhere and there is so much to do. Our reservation book is filling with youth groups, school camps, retreats for women, confirmation students, church work days and scout groups. There is still time to plan an event for your church or group, or to get involved in one of the many events sponsored by DuBois Center. Our **Spring Brochure** has information about our Father-Son Retreat, Wrangle & Ride, Service Saturdays and more. Click [here](#) to view a copy and [here](#) for a Reservation Form. For more information, contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or [email](#).



### **"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 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

### **WRANGLE & RIDE Saturdays, March 23 & April 13**

Spring is a great time to explore DuBois Center from horseback! Join our equestrian team on Saturday, March 23 and/or 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, these are horse-intensive days 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. Minimum age is 12. The cost is \$65 per day with lunch included. **Online registration is now open**, or complete and mail this [form](#). Questions? Contact DuBois Center 618-787-2202 or [email](#).



### **VOLUNTEERS are the HEART**

Volunteers are the heart of strong and healthy outdoor ministry programs. At DuBois Center, volunteers serve throughout the year on committees and teams, at the barn, in the office, on work projects, as retreat leaders and fund raisers. During the summer, there are a variety of ways to be involved and make a difference in the lives of the young people we serve. Join us for a few hours on a Sunday afternoon, a couple days during the week or a full session of camp. Volunteers work hand in hand with paid summer staff to provide our fun, engaging and faith-filled

program. For more information contact DuBois Center at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202. Volunteer applications are available [online](#).

Summer Opportunities Include:

- Cabin Counselor - Chaplain - Nurse - Barn Helper
- Sunday Welcome Team - Activity Specialist - Photographer



**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



### 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**

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



A NETWORK FOR  
**GROWING  
STEWARDS**

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](mailto:bizerp@ucc.org).



**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](mailto: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](mailto:msouthcm@aol.com). Hope to see you on June 29 to celebrate the legacy and build the future for Uni-Pres Kindercottage.



**Former Kindercottage student recognized for his achievements in class and on the football field** *Reprinted from Uni-Pres Kindercottage e-newsletter*

Sherand Boyd Jr.'s grandmother, Dorothy Dixon, noticed that at a young age, he was always helping people. At the age of 4, she talked to her pastor, Rev. Henry Jones, about Sherand. Pastor Jones said "He's a special young man with a humble spirit." Sherand, the son of Kameka and Sherand Boyd, excelled at Belleville West High School, being named a three-time All-Conference player, was captain of the football team for three years and was on the honor roll and a member of the National Honor Society. While in high school, he worked with special education students which cemented his decision about how he wanted to spend his life.

Now, a special education major and a 6 ft. 200-pound Junior safety for the University of Northern Colorado Bears football team, his face lights up when he sees one of his special education students smile at his presence. Sherand excels in the classroom and on the field. Aside from his hard work with Greeley, CO high schools and Special Olympics, he has helped the Bears defense improve with 84 tackles and four double-digit tackle games last year. Boyd sees himself as the student and not the teacher when working with special education students. "Patience is the main thing," Boyd said, adding "You're working at their pace and not at your pace. You leave to go home and you're reminded that we take the smallest things for granted."

Sherand was a student at Uni-Pres Kindercottage many years ago but still returns to visit Brenda and the staff when he is in the area. Grandma Dixon is very proud of her grandson, sharing that "He has a servant's heart-he likes to help people. That's who he is and who he's always been."

## What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

**Staunton St. Paul UCC's Youth Group, Exhale, is hosting a used prom dress sale on Sat, April 6 from 9 am - 5 pm.** They are looking for donations of dresses, shoes, jewelry, etc. If you have something to donate, contact Becca at 618-520-0185. All proceeds will go to support the Exhale Mission Trips.

### **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@cts-chicago.edu](mailto:chad.schwickerath@cts-chicago.edu) or 773-896-2434)

**United Theological Seminary** Terri Burnor ([tburnor@unitedseminary.edu](mailto:tburnor@unitedseminary.edu) or 633-4311)

**Eden Theological Seminary** Lorin Cope ([lcope@eden.edu](mailto:lcope@eden.edu) or 314-918-2549)

Each seminary will do its best to accommodate each request.

### **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 began 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](mailto:blaufusm@ucc.org) or 216-736-3214 with questions.

## 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

## 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;

## 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

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 618-635-2386 or [email](#). Proceeds help St. Paul UCC missions.

**Staunton St. Paul UCC's Youth Group, Exhale, presents a Chili Cook-off & Cheesecake Bake-off on Sat, Feb 23 from 11 am - 2 pm at the church.** To enter with your own crockpot \$10. Register by Feb 13. To taste the chili and cheesecake \$10; chili only \$7. Hot dogs, chips and soda for sale. Contact Becca at 618-520-0185 or [rjbraundmeier@gmail.com](mailto:rjbraundmeier@gmail.com).

Children 5 and under Free. All carry outs \$11. Please place meat/sausage orders by Feb 5 to Melinda Albers at 618-243-5354.

**Nashville St. Paul UCC will host the gospel singing group *Fred Church and the Spirituals* in concert Sun, Feb 10 at 6:30 pm.** Fred Church group dates back to the vinyl record era of the 1970's, and performs a variety of traditional and modern gospel music. St. Paul invites all to this evening of musical inspiration. A free-will offering will be taken.

## 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.

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.

**Belleville Christ UCC will celebrate worship with Ann Downing on Sun, Feb 10 at 10 am.** All are welcome to worship with them.

**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.

## LIFE at Eden: Informed by Grace

March 2, 2019 at Eden Theological Seminary

The next LIFE class offers something for everyone. The Certificate course is a fascinating tour of the Old Testament taught by Rev. Dr. Clint McCann and the Elective course is an intriguing look at the Enneagram of spirituality.

### Certificate Course: Old Testament Survey

Rev. Dr. Clint McCann will lead us from creation, through the wilderness, into wars and reconciliation, liturgy, lament, praise informed by GRACE! ALL IN ONE DAY! ZOOM!

### Elective Course: The Enneagram

Dr. Jill Baker will explore "The Enneagram of Personality" which is generally used as a typology to gain insights into workplace interpersonal-dynamics; in spirituality it is more commonly presented as a path to higher states of being, essence, and enlightenment. Both contexts say it can aid in self-awareness, self-understanding and self-development.

To register or for more information, click [here](#) or email [jschantz@eden.edu](mailto:jschantz@eden.edu)

