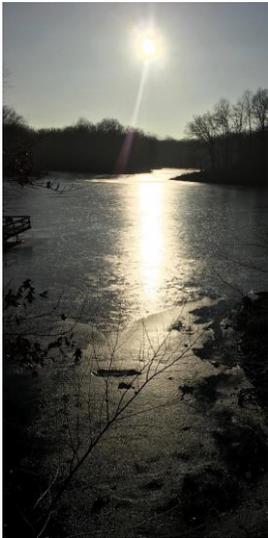


# Weekly Connection

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



## Operation Shimmer

Have you ever marveled at the sun across the lake at DuBois Center? You're not the only one. Whether from a canoe, pontoon, bridge or beach, you can't help but appreciate the shimmer that comes across the lake from sunrise to sunset.

In many ways, the lake is the heart of our camp. It supports camp activities, as well as wildlife and plants. Stand still and listen to the water lap, and feel the pulse of the camp.

Just as human hearts sometimes need a little extra care, our lake needs some extra care right now, with some pressing improvements.

The spillway pipe has outlived its lifespan. Temporary repairs bought time, but some Muskrat Love (for those of you old enough to remember the song) has hastened the need to make a major repair before summer camp this year. This means cutting the dam, replacing the pipe,

rebuilding the dirt, and resurfacing the road. The only week out of the year when this is logically feasible is Holy Week, when there are no groups in camp.

There's one other improvement needing to happen before summer, and that's air conditioning in Oak Lodge. Can we get an Amen? The shimmer of the lake in late July would look so much prettier if we all were shimmering a little less in the summer heat. It also will make the camp more attractive and accessible for campers and guests. Some dedicated AC funds are waiting to be used, and they will cover a portion of the cost.

So welcome to **Operation Shimmer**. These expenses are larger than our typical improvement, and they need to happen over the course of the next four months. Based on estimates for both projects, our goal is \$60,000, with \$10,000 already received. The first money in goes to repair the spillway so the work can happen in April. Air conditioning will go in second, but still before camp fills in June.

It's a tall order in a short time, but these projects require immediate attention. DuBois Center has tackled sudden expenses in the past with support from across the Conference. This time is no different.

We need your donations, your Lenten fundraisers, your pop-up yard sales and trivia nights to meet the \$60,000 goal by the end of May. These repairs just can't wait. Help us keep our aquatic heart healthy and keep the shimmer on the lake. Donations can be sent to the Illinois South Conference labeled Operation Shimmer, and they'll go to this project.

Thank you for your unwavering support of DuBois Center.

Click [here](#) for a flyer. Or [here](#) for a bulletin insert.

Enjoy three and a half days of innovative worship services, workshops, music for purchase and networking opportunities. The planning committee has created a conference that will explore unique elements of music and art to inspire and uplift attendees. All are welcome to join us.



June 25-28, 2019 • FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC • MADISON, WISCONSIN

## 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  
March 3 - March 9, 2019  
Churches & Pastors**

- Farina Friedens UCC, Pastor Zach (Chelsea) Garrett  
- Floraville St. Paul UCC, Pastor Matt (Laura) Friz

**UCC Musicians Association  
Featured presenters**



John Behnke, Bert Pinsonneaul, Bruce Bengtson,



Susan Mendenhall, Janet Kessenich, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, plus seventeen more!

Workshops will range from organ, choral and handbells to drumming, liturgical art, liturgical movement, to working with a variety of aged voices, and promoting the arts in a variety of ways.

Each day, attendees will also have the opportunity to explore Madison, home to the State Capitol and the University of Wisconsin Badgers. Madison is summertime personified as it is situated between two lakes. There are plenty of perfect spots to relax and enjoy a view, walk along a lakeshore path or enjoy a sunset. To register and for more information, go to [Conference 2019](#).



**Day of Discipleship on Sat, February 23 at the St. Paul UCC in Belleville** welcomed four speakers from the National UCC setting, **Heather Kimmel**, UCC General Legal Counsel, **Rev. Malcolm Himschoot**, Minister for Ministerial Calls and Transitions (member of the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization

(MESA) Team), **Rev. Andy DeBraber**, Major Gifts Officer (member of the Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communication (OPTIC) team), and **Frank Loiacono**, from The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ. Over 100 people from 38 churches learned about some interesting resources available from Illinois South Conference and the national setting. Between sessions, DuBois Center staff and chaplains got us all up and singing. The day was informative as well as entertaining.

Panelists above are (l to r): Rev. Andy DeBraber, Rev. Malcolm Himschoot, Heather Kimmel and Frank Loiacono.



Above: The crowd listening to Rev. Andy Debraber (l); DuBois Center's music session (r).

**Retired Pastor**

- Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee and Kevin Lee

**People with Life Concerns**

- Keep Viv (Rev. Ivan) Horn in your prayers as she recuperates from surgery. Viv is the wife of Rev. Horn, who serves as pastor for Hecker Friedens and is the ISC Secretary. Cards may be sent to Viv at 727 Gall Rd, Waterloo IL 62298.

- 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.

## Active Disaster Recovery Worksites in 2018

### PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey (August 2017) brought sustained torrential rains and devastating flooding to Texas, leaving 900,000 people in need. It caused an estimated \$150 to \$200 billion in damages, making it among the costliest hurricanes in U.S. history.

Among people hit hardest were renters in already economically precarious Port Arthur.

Flooded apartments included 17 rental units managed by the Southeast Texas

Community Development Corporation, a local non-profit. SETCDC has provided low-income housing for more than 30 years, but neither they nor their tenants had the resources to restore severely damaged apartments.

UCC Disaster Ministries is partnering with SETCDC to get the work done and to build long-term relationships of care and support for the community. In 2018, we:

- fielded 11 work teams comprising 100 persons. They put in volunteer labor valued at \$86,400 rehabilitating the volunteer house and 13 rental properties, which enabled 15-20 people to return home.
- deployed UCC Partners in Service Disaster Volunteers Garrett and Elaine Cavanaugh, and Bill and Ellen Matten, whose combined service is valued at \$57,000.
- funded a construction manager and Hurricane Harvey Recovery Co-ordinators Joshua Lawrence and Amariee Collins.

### 2018 Funding: \$367,788

**What's next?** There are three properties to finish in Port Arthur, with completion projected for March 2019. Work then will move into Beaumont to rehabilitate properties to provide affordable housing options to low-income persons displaced by Harvey.



#### Yaribel's Story

Among SETCDC's tenants is Yaribel Davila, who had to evacuate her one-bedroom apartment in Port Arthur, Texas, when flood waters caused by Hurricane Harvey came in up to her knees.

"My apartment is small but it's my own spot," she said. "I suffered from Harvey really bad. They had to gut my house. They had to spray my house. They had to put sheetrock up. Thank God it's looking better because of the volunteers that came in. They've been doing painting, sandpapering. They are doing a lot of work and I really appreciate them."

## Ecuador Partnership invites you to participate in the Mission to Ecuador on July 5 - 15, 2019 for a very unique trip in Jama, Ecuador in the province of Manabí.

Jama was close to the epicenter of the earthquake in April 2016 that devastated the coastline. You will be completing a TWO-PART MISSION: 1-Masonry construction of a home with Habitat Para el Ecuador. 2- Four-day community outreach activities program focusing on pillars of character, working with children and families of the community. WE NEED YOU!

On this 11-day trip you will fly into Guayaquil and back from Quito. If you have been thinking about going-**THIS IS YOUR TIME!** Deadline for registration for the trip is March 15. Do not hesitate to contact us to schedule a phone meeting or physical meeting to discuss the itinerary! Thank you! Be Blessed. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



## Yearbook Information Due March 6

If you haven't sent in your yearbook information for the UCC Yearbook and keeping records for your church's 11 year report, please do it soon. Deadline is creeping up on us!! If you have issues, please contact Lynnette at [lschuepbach@iscucc.org](mailto:lschuepbach@iscucc.org) on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday morning.



## New Hanover Zoar UCC Celebrated Its 175th Anniversary

Congratulations to the Zoar UCC congregation. They celebrated during Sunday services on Feb 24 and enjoyed fellowship immediately following the service.



## SUMMER JOBS - APPLY NOW!

Is this the year for more than just another summer job? DuBois Center is searching for fun-loving and child-focused individuals with a heart for ministry to serve on our summer staff. Amazing memories + resume building skills = a summer to remember! Check out the Summer of Service [flyer](#) and consider whether serving outdoors with a dynamic team might be just the opportunity for you. Open positions include barn staff, cabin counselors and coordinators. Lifeguard certification is a plus. Questions? Contact Shirley at [shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202. Application packets are available [online](#).



## WHY CHURCH CAMP?

Because church camp is joyful fun! It is a sacred place. It is intensely relational and positive role models abound! Church camp is an integral part of the year-round faith formation efforts of many congregations. However, it is very different from VBS or Sunday School. Campers and leaders live, work, play and worship together from early morning until late into the evening. They grow together through shared experiences in God's amazing creation and form an intentional community. They hear our faith stories in new places and new ways, and find opportunities to share their own. The activities are fun, challenging and filled with opportunities to grow as part of a Christian community. Check out DuBois Center's line-up of faith-building [opportunities](#) for this summer!

## THANKS TO REGION 2

A big THANK YOU to Region 2 and all those who turned out for the annual Bunco Night to support DuBois Center! Scores of gamers gathered at St. Paul UCC in Columbia for an evening of fun, fellowship, good eats and friendly rivalry.



Together, they raised over \$1200 to support the ministry of DuBois Center and donated 77 healthy food items for Kindercottage. Entrance fees, a fifty-fifty drawing (which the winner graciously donated back to the cause), a silent auction and donations for snacks accounted for the grand total. All the yummy snacks and very cool auction items were donated by Region 2 churches and individuals. THANKS to Region 2 for making it happen!



## FATHER-SON RETREAT

### Early Bird Deadline - March 8

The annual DuBois Center Father-Son Retreat is just around the corner - March 29-31. Do you or does a man in your life need some quality



time away with their son, father, grandfather, nephew, brother or little buddy? Look no further! Spend time on the waterfront fishing for a whopper, at the archery range shooting bullseyes, or around the campfire telling silly stories and roasting marshmallows. Don't let this fish - or the early bird discount - get away. For more information, click [here](#). Register [online](#), by mail or email. If you have additional questions, contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org). Final registration deadline is March 15.



## "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

## LENTEN WORK DAY

### March 23 - Don't Miss It!

Looking for a meaningful Lenten discipline? How about pitching in with family and friends, and making a difference at DuBois Center? Stretch your muscles and get a little dirty and help spruce up the grounds. Projects vary depending on the weather and the skills of the workers - carpentry, cleaning, painting and raking are on the list. A



with the traveling quilt. To see this work of art LIVE, catch up with it at the following churches:

March 10 - Grantfork UCC, Grantfork  
March 17 - St. Paul UCC, Lebanon  
March 24 - St. Peter's UCC, Okawville  
April 7 - Christ UCC, Dupo

hearty lunch is provided. Check out this [flyer](#) for more information. **RSVP** to DuBois Center by Monday, March 18, at 618-787-2202 or [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org). If the March date doesn't work for you, there will be another Service Saturday on April 13 - or call to set up a different day for your church group!



### LEAD - Leadership Experience and Development - June 23-28

LEAD is a great option for young people who are interested in developing their leadership skills, working with younger children, and having a great time at DuBois Center! Check out this [flyer](#). LEAD functions much like a "lab school" with discussion, instruction, practice and evaluation sessions. Skills gained will help participants grow as positive Christian leaders; manage camp situations and camper behavior; create a safe, fun environment; and teach basic camp skills. LEAD is designed for youth who have completed grades 10-12. Previous camp experience is not required, but a special application is - in addition to the Camp Registration Form. The LEAD application packet is available [online](#) or by contacting DuBois Center at [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.

**DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work.** When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



*CHHSM News*  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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



A NETWORK FOR  
GROWING  
STEWARDS

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](mailto:bizerp@ucc.org).

### 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)



**ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY CARE** Soup, Salad & Suspense will be held at Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC on Sun, March 17. Doors open at 2:30 pm and Comedy Murder Mystery begins at 3 pm. This Murder

Mystery Dinner Theater, performed by professional actors, involves members of the audience, often with hilarious results. The audience member who solves the mystery of "who done it" will receive a prize. The event also includes a raffle and "wine wall" which are additional ways to support our mission of providing affordable alternatives to nursing home care to individuals with dementia and/or physical challenges. St. John's also devotes significant resources to supporting the families and care partners who enable these individuals to continue living as independently as feasible. Tickets are \$30 per person which includes a \$15 donation to St. John's Community Care. Call 618-344-5008 to order tickets.

**Deaconess Nurse Ministry is teaming up with Panera Fundraising in April to raise money for their programs.** On April 18, from 4 pm - 8 pm at the St. Louis Bread Company location in Bridgeton, Missouri, all proceeds from sales will benefit Deaconess Nurse Ministry. Click [here](#) for a flyer. All proceeds will benefit Deaconess Nurse Ministry.



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

### Job Opportunity: Uni-Press Kindercottage Director

Uni-Press Kindercottage is a child development center located in East St. Louis II. It is a joint mission between the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of Christ.

We are announcing the search for a Director of the center. Interested applicants must meet DCFS licensing standards and ExeRate standards.

Qualified applicants can find a full job description and application procedures on the [website](#).

**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.

### Region 2

**St. Peter UCC, Red Bud will hold a Spring BBQ (all you can eat buffet) on Sun, March 3, serving at 11 am.** Menu includes ribs, rib tips, pork steaks, smoked pork roast and chicken with all the sides, desserts and drinks. Eat in or carry-out. Join us at 403 Madison St., Red Bud, IL.

**St. Peter UCC, Red Bud will hold two fish fries during Lent, Fri, March 15 and Good Friday, April 19, serving from 4 pm - 7 pm.** Menu includes jumbo cod, catfish cutups and chicken strips with all the sides. Eat in or carry-out. Join us at 403 Madison St., Red Bud, IL.

### Region 4

**Brighton St. John's UCC will hold Friday Fish Fries on March 15 - April 12 from 11 am - 6 pm.** Menu includes river fish (Buffalo) and white fish with choice of bread or pulled pork sandwich, brats or hot dogs. Sides include baked beans, green beans, potato salad, coleslaw, or mac and cheese and desserts of pies, cakes, brownies etc. Cost for sandwich only \$5; full meal \$10 (includes 2 sides, dessert and soda). Dine in or Carry out. Delivery to businesses and schools at lunch. Order ahead at 618-372-3737.

### Region 5

**Troy Friedens UCC will hold its Sausage & Kraut Dinner on Sun, March 10 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm at the church.** Buffet menu includes grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, coffee, tea and dessert. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 10 years \$5; Children 4 years and under Free; Carry-outs and curb service \$10. Call 618-667-6535 for curbside service and pre-orders.

### Region 8

**Zion UCC in New Baden will hold its Chicken Dinner on Sat, March 2 from 4 pm - 7 pm.** Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, dressing, corn, green beans, slaw, bread, applesauce, desserts, and beverages. Adults \$10; Children ages 6 - 12 years \$5; Children 5 and under FREE; Child take out \$5. Eat in or carry out.

### All Regions



### Spring Your Clocks Forward

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on Sun, March 10. Don't forget to

set your clocks so you won't be late for church!!

### Region 8

**Zion UCC in New Baden will hold Fish Dinners on Fridays, March 6, 22, and April 19 from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm.** Dinner includes cod tail or catfish, mac and cheese, fries or chips, cole slaw and dessert. Dine in or carry out. All are welcome.

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

### Region 9

**Belleville Concordia UCC's Women's Guild will host a Trivia Night on March 23 at the Quail Club (8303 Concordia Church Road, Belleville). Doors open at 6:30 pm and Trivia starts at 7:00 pm.** Cost is \$15 a person or \$120 a table (Includes a survivor round & mulligans). Bring your own snacks. Drinks available from a cash bar. Contact Natalie at 618-476-3377 or [email](#).

**HELP!!** Uni-Pres Kindercottage is preparing a video of the last 50 years of ministry at the day care center in East St. Louis--the old location and our current building. If you have pictures, especially those with Brenda Crisp in them, please get them to Kindercottage. You can [email](#) them. Save the date, June 29, for a fabulous "Golden Gala" celebrating 50 years of ministry and looking forward to the future.