

Weekly Connection

For the Week of March 24, 2019 - March 30, 2019
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



This morning as I was driving to the office, I experienced such joy and energy seeing the sun and feeling its warmth on my face. Years ago during my first winter in Chicago, I quickly realized the importance of the presence of the sun in my life. Before we moved there, a good friend warned me about the dreariness of Chicago winters. Being a native to the Midwest, I assumed I knew everything there was to know about winter.

What I did not know was how hard winter could be on me when the sky was overcast for months on end and I could not recall the last time I saw or felt the sun.

Perhaps I have a touch of seasonal-affective-disorder, but I believe that, spiritually, we all do. I believe that we are created to crave the presence of warm, life-giving energy. In fact, I believe all creatures are created this way. At a recent Green DuBois meeting as we were discussing the bees that we will soon purchase and house at DuBois Center for education and eventually honey, I learned something I did not know about bees.

One common known fact of beekeepers is the importance of placing hives in areas that receive good sunlight. A hive in direct sunlight enables the hive to become activated earlier. As soon as the energy and warmth of the sun hits the bees' wings, their whole bodies are propelled into movement. Arising early can essentially mean extra nectar-foraging time in prime hours of the day. Bees become active when they get warm-and they get warm sooner in a sunny location. Even though this flurry of productive activity signals the bees are warm, when you see this activity it appears the bees are "happy."

Now bees might not be "happier" in the sunlight, but most of us certainly are. Perhaps this "happier" state of being is similar for us as it is for bees. Sunlight provides a warm energy that is felt and absorbed deep into our being. Beyond the scientific advantages of natural sunlight, such as increasing the body's production of Vitamin D and serotonin, natural sunlight is a reminder of our need for warm, life-giving energy. This energy is something that can be hard to put into words, but it is evident to us when it is present among us and when it is absent.

It reminds me of the old Sunday School song, "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam." I remember singing the words of this catchy song and knowing to the core of my being what it meant to shine in a way that brought energy and warmth to others. This can and should be one of the core and essential functions of the church. Not that we are called to artificially create positive energy, but that positive energy is a natural byproduct of positioning ourselves in the presence of and basking in the sunlight of God's grace, love and joy. This is what people are looking for when they seek a family community and when they choose whether or not to remain a part of a local church.

It is not that people do not expect the winter seasons of discontent and even discord. These seasons are a natural part of life and certainly life together. Yet, when the darkness and dreariness last for too long, people become restless, impatient and anxious about when they might experience the life giving power of Christ. Sometimes, you can simply walk into a church and feel that the darkness of winter has taken over. Even before a word is spoken, you can feel the lethargic and oppressive energy. Often, it is a result of failing to place themselves in the direct and natural light of Christ's love, grace, forgiveness, acceptance, and joy.

On the other hand, you can also walk into other churches and feel the light of Christ permeating the space and the very being of those who inhabit it. You can feel the energy. You can feel the warmth. You can feel the light that is life-giving, motivating, and inspiring.

Most of the time, it has nothing to do with the size of the church, its location or its

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

[Hitz Memorial Home](#)

[Hoyleton](#)

[Insurance Board](#)

[LIFE Program](#)

[Neighborhood Houses](#)

[New Athens Home](#)

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

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

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)
[ISC Directory](#)

Pray for...

**Prayer list for
March 24 - 30, 2019
Churches & Pastors**

- Granite City St. Peter's Evangelical UCC
- Grantfork UCC Rev. Tim (Rev. Janet) Darmour-Paul

financial means. It has everything to do with whether or not the leaders, the members; the people have sought to live in the natural light that is only produced through an authentic, living relationship with the Author and Creator of all light and energy.

As the weather breaks and spring is upon us, I challenge you to consider if you have placed yourself in places and spaces that will put you in the direct light of the Light of the World. I also challenge you to consider what people experience when they walk through the doors of your church. Can they feel the embrace of the Holy Spirit's energy and warmth? Or is it time to open the windows to let in the fresh air and light of the Spirit? Where is the Spirit's life-giving presence in your personal life and in the light of your church?

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

 **Summer Communities of Service** (10 weeks) Ages 19 +
Placements for the summer are happening now.
Serve at the intersection of faith communities and social justice. Serve local communities throughout the U.S. in long-term disaster recovery, food justice through community gardening and economic equity through children's enrichment. Reflect on action and be part of intentional community.

Travel, Housing, Living Stipend, and Health Insurance provided. Apply to your college for internship credit. More information [here](#).

Young Adult Service Communities (11 months) Ages 21-35
Placements for 2019-2020 happening now.
Become a faith-based justice leader. Join local communities acting for affordable housing, immigration reform, public health and racial justice. Serve at the intersection of faith communities and social justice. Reflect on action and be part of intentional community. Housing, Living Stipend, and Health Insurance provided. Apply for student loan forbearance. More information [here](#).



Not JUST a "mission trip"

Urban Mission Experience St. Louis provides your group with meaningful mission work in quality agencies AND tools to think about the systems of injustice that make such work necessary. Dates available for Summer (May-August) 2019.

UME StL is hosted at Epiphany United Church of Christ. Epiphany is an ONA, Just Peace, Whole Earth congregation seeking to become intentionally multicultural while living out a faithful and active social justice ministry in the city.

On your week's trip (usually arriving Sunday and heading home on Saturday) you will:

- Have 4 days of meaningful work at two or more agencies.
- Have one full day for sightseeing and fun activities.
- Sleep lock-in style in an urban church - in a safe and convenient neighborhood.
- Have full use of the kitchen to save on food costs.
- Have access to showers at the local YMCA.
- Learn more about yourselves, our society, and God's call to justice.
- AND help a small urban congregation with your ridiculously low cost of \$25 per person per night!!

For more information and to reserve your week, click [here](#).

Retired Pastor

- Rev. James and Lelynna Langdoc, Sun City Center, FL

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins as she recuperates from surgery. Rev. Atkins is the Pastor at St. Paul UCC in Staunton. Cards may be sent to 339 North Franklin St, Staunton, IL 62088.

- Keep 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 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.



HURRICANE FLORENCE Southeastern United States

Hurricane Florence made landfall in the U.S. Carolinas September 14, then lingered over the region, causing catastrophic flooding, including prolonged significant river flooding, to the Carolina coast and inland. More than 40 people in the Carolinas and Virginia were killed. The environmental impacts of the storm's damage are vast, and current estimates of losses range from \$38 to \$50 billion.

2018 funding: \$10,000

What's next? An Eastern Regional Disaster Specialist has been hired by UCC Disaster Ministries in partnership with the UCC's Southern and Southeast conferences began work in February 2019. A **2018 Hurricanes Fund** has been set up to receive donations toward long-term recovery.

PENNSYLVANIA Hurricane Evacuees from Puerto Rico

UCC Disaster Ministries is at the helm of outreach to thousands of Puerto Ricans who sought shelter in Pennsylvania following Hurricane Maria. Work began at a Disaster Assistance Services Center in Philadelphia, then rolled out to seven other cities through a series of resource fairs.

UCC Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Disaster Coordinator Karl Jones helped establish the Greater Philadelphia Long-Term Recovery Committee, which offered help with employment, immunizations, voter registration, professional licensing, health screenings, disaster relief, housing, education, birth certificates, banking, food/clothing vouchers, emotional, spiritual and mental health needs, driver's licenses and transition to traditional social services as needed.

UCC Disaster Ministries paid 64 nights of lodging for families and helped meet other unmet needs.

2018 Funding: \$8,203

What's next: Evacuees continue to arrive amidst lengthy recovery delays and complications in Puerto Rico. UCC Disaster Ministries has issued a recovery grant of \$10,000 to help with their needs and to follow up with earlier arrivals in Philadelphia, Reading and the Lehigh Valley.

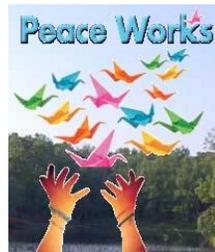
"I was homeless, and you sheltered me ..."

- A family with three young children had been staying at a hotel, paid by FEMA Temporary Sheltering Assistance. When their TSA ended, a UCC Disaster Ministries grant helped to provide temporary housing until a more permanent solution could be found.
- A man had been relocated by the Red Cross to Pennsylvania after the hurricane. He was able to put a rental deposit on an apartment thanks to a UCC grant.
- A family with two children was looking for assistance with rent. The man had started to work. They had been staying with an aunt, but needed to move. A UCC grant helped them to place a deposit on an apartment.



Green DuBois Workday

Green DuBois organized removal of scrap metal from camp last week, with the help of Garrett Pribble, his father, Clifton and brother, Nathan. All told, they hauled off nearly 12,000 lbs of metal, greatly improving the area around the lumber shed and clearing several shelves in the maintenance building. There's still at least one more load to go, which is planned for later this month.



EARLY BIRD DEADLINE - Wednesday, April 10

All you need to be singing a happy Early Bird tune is a completed 2019 summer camp registration and \$50 non-refundable deposit. Save \$30 on full-week sessions and \$15 on part-week sessions. View the camp [brochure](#) online or pick one up at your local UCC church. Then register and pay [online](#) or postmark your registration [form](#) and deposit by April 10. Use this form for mail-in registration. If your church pays part of the camp fee, we will send them an invoice later in the season. For more information contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



THANK YOU PARTY - Sunday, April 28 - Save the Date

The annual DuBois Center THANK YOU Party, previously held during the Christmas holidays, is our opportunity to share our appreciation for your prayers and support; your gifts of time, talent and treasure; and your partnership in our shared mission and ministry at DuBois Center. Together we have touched countless lives over the past five decades with gifts of God's abundant love. Volunteers, staff, supporters and friends make it all happen. If you fit into any of these categories - then YOU are invited. Churches are encouraged to send representatives. Enjoy a yummy meal, take a nature hike, tour the grounds by tram or pontoon boat and see what's happening around camp. DuBois Center is beautiful in the spring, so don't miss this opportunity!



Activities will begin at pm, with dinner at 4:30pm. We'll conclude by 6pm. Please RSVP to DuBois Center at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202 by **Friday, April 19.**



CAMP NURSES

Servants with Sunscreen

Band-Aids - YES, but so much more! One setting for ministry at DuBois Center is our health center. Volunteer nurses, most of whom are RNs, are a vital piece of our summer camp program. Serving as a camp nurse can be a very rewarding mission experience, one that is similar yet very different than most traditional nursing positions. As expected, responsibilities include reviewing camper medical forms, conducting health screenings, receiving & administering medications, providing first aid & basic medical treatment, and documentation. But when you really get down to it, camp nurses spend most of their time removing ticks, soothing rashes, distributing medications and providing extra TLC for homesick and nervous campers. If you are an RN, please consider serving with us for a full or partial week. The living quarters do have AC and there is often time to join us for worship, explore the woods or just sit back and read a book. Contact Shirley at DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or [email](mailto:shirley@duboiscenter.org).

"I SPY" ...

on the Road Again!

I've got my tickets! Do you?! Each year the Happy Quilters of St. John UCC, Mascoutah stitch and promote an amazing youth quilt to support DuBois Center. This year's "I SPY" treasure is based on the popular books of picture riddles. It is 70 x 80 inches of fun created from 120 different fabrics! Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The church matches what the Happy Quilters raise, so each dollar you donate is two dollars for DuBois Center. The traveling quilt still has a few stops to make before the grand display at the 40th Annual Quilt Show at St. John UCC on April 27. It you can't catch it live, click [here](#) for tickets, then print and mail them to the church with a check payable to "Happy Quilters." Final four stops:



- Sun, March 24 - St. Peter's UCC, Okawville
- Sun, April 7 - Christ UCC, Dupo
- Sat, April 27 - St. John UCC, Mascoutah



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 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](mailto:shirley@duboiscenter.org) or 618-787-2202.

Ready for a FULL WEEK at DuBois Center?

If your child will complete grades 3-5 this spring or summer, then it's time to step up to Settler! New friends and lots of fun are just the beginning. Campers run, play, sing, eat, jump, act, create, splash, pray, hike, explore, build, ride and finally... sleep! Growing and playing together, exploring God's creation, building a Christian community - that's Settler camp at DuBois Center. Three days just isn't enough time to explore all that DuBois Center has to offer, so consider these sessions for the next step: June 9-14, June 23-28 and July 7-12. Check out the camp [brochure](#) and register [online](#). For more information or to receive materials by mail, contact the DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



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



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Spring Convocation

Eden Theological Seminary's Spring Convocation will be held in the Wehrle Chapel on the Eden Campus on April 23-24, 2019. This year's conversation will be Church Buildings: Blessings and Burdens.

Speakers are Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Theological Seminary; Rev. Dr. Patrick G. Duggan, Executive Director of the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund in Cleveland; and Dr. Robert Simon, Co-author of *Retired, Rehabbed, Reborn; The Adaptive Reuse of America's Derelict Religious Buildings and Schools*. Cost is \$85 which includes lunch both days.



This event is open to anyone interested in the topic of what to do with our church buildings when a need for transition has been identified. To register, click [here](#).



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.

Surviving Caregiving Conference will be held on April 27 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm at St. John UCC Faith Hall in Collinsville. Attendees will learn about resources and techniques to help them on their caregiving journey. Speakers include Heidi Dodd, speaking on *Legal & Financial Issues*; Lynette Strode, speaking on *Coping Techniques & Tricks That Make Daily Living Manageable*; and Greg Kyrouac, speaking on *Dementia Disease Progression & Care Strategies*. Attendees will receive a resource packet. Continental breakfast and box lunch provided. Complimentary care available at St. John's Adult Day Center during the conference hours. Pre-registration for the adult day service is required at 618-344-5008. Event is free but registration is required at 618-222-2561. The event is sponsored by St. John's Community Care, Hospice of Southern Illinois Inc, and AgeSmart Community Resources. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



St. John's Community Care presents Brain Wave held on Wednesdays and Fridays and continues for 10 weeks. First class will be held on Wednesday, April 3 from 10 am - 2 pm. Brain Wave is open to people experiencing early memory loss. This group provides

a safe, positive, strength-based environment where participants will learn, share, and engage together with an expert. Benefits of the class include education about memory loss, meaningful activities that build upon strengths and abilities, fun peer support, skill building and mentally challenging activities. Outcomes for participants may yield decreased depression, decreased anxiety in social settings, stabilized cognitive functioning and increased coping skills. To register or to schedule an assessment appointment, call 618-344-5008 by March 20. The curriculum was developed by the University of Wisconsin. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

St. John's Community Care Presents Savvy Caregiver Training. The sessions provide tools to family members who are caring for an individual with dementia/memory loss who is living at home, either alone or with family. Each session will be comprised of six two-hour sessions. The classes will be held on Mondays, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22 from 2 pm - 4 pm at Meridian Village, 27 Auerbach Place, Glen Carbon, IL 62034 in the Media Room on the 3rd floor of the Evergreen Building. Thanks to a grant, the sessions are offered without charge and complimentary care is available nearby for the person with dementia at St. John's Community Care's Edwardsville Adult Day Center (1015 B Century Drive, Edwardsville). For more information or to register, call 618-344-5008. Download a [flyer](#).

St. John's Community Care and the Alzheimers Association will offer Cardinals Reminiscence League on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:30 am - 12 pm at University Pointe II Center in Edwardsville. The Cardinals Reminiscence League is open to people with memory loss who would like to share memories about the Cardinals baseball team, learn about the team's history, and support the current team. New fans and those who would like to socialize and learn more are welcome. Session dates are April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19 and October 17. All sessions are free. Call 618-656-7090 to learn more and reserve your seat. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



Celebrate Deaconess Nurse Ministry at Cocktails for a Cause

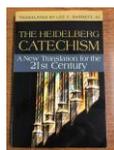
Deaconess Nurse Ministry will be the highlighted nonprofit at Maryland Heights Chamber of Commerce's Cocktails for a Cause on March 27 held at Drunken Fish in Westport Plaza from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. All attendees are asked to bring an item from our wishlist or donate to our diabetic supportive services. Wishlist items include:

- Personal items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, tampon, sanitary pad, deodorant, toilet paper
- Socks
- First Aid items: Band-Aid, alcohol swap, antibiotic ointment, disposable medical gloves
- Nutritional drink supplements (Ensure, Boost, or Glucerna).

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...

O'Fallon UCC is looking for the DVD component of Finding I Am by Lysa TerKurst. If anyone in the Conference is willing to loan it to them for a Bible study, please contact Sarah Koester at 618-973-6732 or sarahjimkoester@gmail.com.



Free Items

Four copies of The Heidelberg Catechisms, translated by Lee C. Barrett, III, are looking for a new home. They are new and in very good condition. Contact Pastor Cherie Stolze at cheriestolze@gmail.com or 314-223-6291. First come, first served.

Illinois South Conference would like to share these hymnals with a church.

There is a set of 26 The Hymnal United Church of Christ. They are in good condition and searching for the opportunity to help your church sing out the messages of God. Contact Christy at Illinois South Conference office at 618-654-2125 or email her at cpursell@iscucc.org.



Boundary Training 2019

In order to maintain ministerial standing in the Illinois South Conference, authorized ministers are required to receive Boundary Awareness Training every three years. Boundary Training is based on the curriculum from Faith Trust Institute. Emails have been sent to all those who are due in 2019. However, if you are unsure about when you are due to re-qualify, please check with the Conference Office at 618-654-2125 or cpursell@iscucc.org. Click [here](#) for a flyer. **COST:** \$20 covers food and materials for ISC pastors; \$30 for non-ISC pastors

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 (RSVP deadline May 7)

BOUNDARIES FOR RETIRED CLERGY; 8:30 am registration; 9:00 start. Conclude by 12:00 pm

Illinois South Conference Office: 1312 Broadway, Highland

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 (RSVP deadline May 14)

BOUNDARIES FOR ACTIVE CLERGY; 8:30 am registration; 9:00 start. Conclude by 2:00 pm

Illinois South Conference Office: 1312 Broadway, Highland

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 (RSVP deadline October 29)

BOUNDARIES FOR RETIRED CLERGY; 8:30 am registration; 9:00 start. Conclude by 12:00 pm

Illinois South Conference Office: 1312 Broadway, Highland

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 (RSVP deadline November 6)

BOUNDARIES FOR ACTIVE CLERGY; 8:30 am registration; 9:00 start. Conclude by 2:00 pm

Illinois South Conference Office: 1312 Broadway, Highland

Job Opportunity: Uni-Pres Kindercottage Director

Uni-Pres Kindercottage is a child development center located in East St. Louis Illinois. 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](#).

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 pictures including Brenda Crisp in them, please get them to Kindercottage. You can e-mail digital copies to brenai_91605@yahoo.com. And please save the date, June 29, for a fabulous "Golden Gala" celebrating 50 years of ministry and looking forward to the future. A twice a century party you don't want to miss!!

Job Opportunity

St. Paul Mother's Day Out, a mission of St. Paul UCC in Belleville, is searching for a new Program Director to lead the educational program for children from two - five years of age. The program strives to provide a caring and enriching environment for children to develop and grow socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically. If you or someone you know would be interested in applying for the position to help lead this mission, please submit your cover letter and resume by April 5 to mdodirectorsearch@stpaulucc.org.

Job Opportunity - Part-time Custodian

Salem United Church of Christ, Alhambra has a part-time custodian vacancy beginning May 1, 2019. The position requires 18-20 hours per week including Sunday morning worship time. If interested, contact (618)488-3215 or salemuccalh@gmail.com.

Region 2

Dupo Christ UCC will hold its All You Can Eat Chicken & Dumpling Dinner on Sun, March 31 from 11:30 am - 3 pm. Dinner includes Green beans, carrots, cole slaw, bread and dessert. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 12 years \$4; Children under 5 years FREE. Carry outs available. Call 618-286-4211 for deliveries.

Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe Christian Education will hold a Chicken and Dumpling Dinner fundraiser on April 6 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds from 5 pm to 7 pm. Menu will include Chicken and Dumplings, salad, corn, mashed potatoes, dinner roll and dessert. Adults \$8; Children 4 - 11 years \$5; Children 3 and under free. One quart jar of chicken and dumplings for \$8. Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Lottery Ticket Drawing. Music by "Pick N An A Grin N" from 6 pm - 8 pm.

Christ UCC in Dupo will hold a Rock & Roll Bingo and Silent Auction on Fri, April 5 at the Dupo Sugar Loaf Township Community Building, 240 S 5th Street in Dupo. It's bingo with songs instead of numbers. Doors open at 6:30 pm and bingo starts at 7 pm. Cost is \$10 per person. Bring your own food and drink.

Hecker Friedens UCC will hold its 2019 GOOD FRIDAY Fish Fry on April 19 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Eat in or Carry Outs. Menu includes, fried cod, chicken strips, French fries, potato salad, cole slaw, stewed

Region 5

Immanuel UCC in Hamel will hold its Family Style Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 24 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm. Adults \$10; Children 6 - 9 years \$5; Carry outs \$10. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, iced tea or coffee, white or chocolate milk and desert. Quilt and basket raffles and Country Store. The church is 1-1/2 miles south of Hamel at 5838 Staunton Rd. Contact 618-633-2277 for more information.

Staunton St. Paul UCC's Youth Group, Exhale, is hosting a dress sale on Sat, April 6 from 9 am - 5 pm. All sorts of dresses, shoes, jewelry, etc will be available. Everyone is invited to shop. All proceeds will go to support the Exhale Mission Trips.

Looking for a Wednesday Evening Lenten Service?

There is not a particular theme, but like Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, services cover much in "Beatitudes, Blessings, Etc". Each Wednesday, services travel to a different location and begin at 7 pm with refreshments following.

- March 20- Marine UCC, Marine
 - March 27- St. Paul UCC, Edwardsville
 - April 3- Grantfork UCC, Grantfork
 - April 10- Immanuel UCC, Hamel.
- All are welcome.

On Saturday, April 6, 2019, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul UCC, Lebanon, will host the Heartland Community Chorus in concert. The chorus is made up of singers from the local

Region 8

St. Paul UCC in Lebanon presents Lenten Studies as part of their Wednesday evening services.

- Wednesday, March 20: Lori A. Lehr-Knapp, MS, LCPC will lead this study and conversation on Mental Health, Suicide and Depression, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Biblical text: Mark 3:21

- Wednesday, March 27: Debbie & Shane Stinson will lead this study and conversation on LGBTQ and Gender Issues, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Biblical text: Luke 10:25

- Wednesday, April 3: Brenda Crisp, Director of Uni-Pres Kindercottage will lead this study and discussion on Poverty, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Biblical text: Mark 14:7

- Wednesday, April 10: Elizabeth George will lead this study and discussion on the #MeToo Movement, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Biblical text: John 4:1-42

For those who are interested in sharing a meal, each Wednesday's study will begin with a light soup, fruit & veggie supper from 5:00-6:15 pm with the studies following from 6:15-7:45 pm. All are welcome!

Zion UCC in New Baden will hold Fish Dinners on March 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.

Region 9

Belleville Concordia UCC's Women's Guild will host a Trivia Night on March 23 at the Quail

tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, pie, cake and drinks. Good Friday Worship follows at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Region 3

St. John UCC in Collinsville presents JAZZ*125* - Live on Friday, March 29 at 7:00 pm. The evening features Dr. Dwight [Andrews](#) of Atlanta, GA and Cliff Aerie and The Oikos [Ensemble](#) of Webster Groves, MO. Tickets are \$50 per person. Contact 618-344-2526 or [email](#).

Region 4

Brighton St. John's UCC will hold Friday Fish Fries on March 22 - 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.

area including Highland, Troy, St. Rose, Trenton, Greenville, St. Jacob, Pocahontas, Edwardsville and Pierron. Rev. Jerry Bennett, pastor, St. Peter UCC, Hookdale, and Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver, former ISC Conference Minister, are members of this ensemble. The chorus is now in its sixth season and they present a varied repertoire. The theme for this concert is "Sing Me to Heaven". Mark your calendar now.

Alhambra Salem UCC Exhale (Youth Group) will hold a Trivia Night at Salem UCC in Alhambra on Sat, April 13 beginning at 6 pm. \$10 per person with up to 10 per table. 50/50. Bring your own snacks. Proceeds go toward their summer mission trip. Contact Becca at rjbraundmeier@gmail.com or 618-520-0185.

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](#).

St. Paul UCC in Belleville will hold a Bunny Breakfast on Sat, April 20 from 10 am - Noon in their Activities Center. No charge to attend. Breakfast, egg hunts, games, and a visit with the Easter Bunny. All are welcome.