

# Weekly Connection

For the Week of June 7, 2019 - June 13, 2019  
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



This past Saturday, I went to the Mercy Conference and Retreat Center with a group from the church where my husband serves. My husband had asked me to help co-lead a labyrinth experience as part of their Lenten journey. On Friday night, Todd was checking the weather and fretting about the fact that people might opt out the next morning because the day's weather reports had changed drastically from warm and sunny to cold and 90% chance of heavy rains.

On the morning of the event, Todd sent out a message through their One Call Now system to inform members that the event was still on, but those planning to attend should wear shoes they did not mind getting muddy and to bring an umbrella. When we arrived at the Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, I began to have my own doubts about whether or not people would enjoy the experience. We had designed a worship that we had planned to do outside of the entrance of the labyrinth before we walked it as a group. I couldn't imagine what the worship experience would look like or feel like standing in the pouring rain. I couldn't imagine it being meaningful as realistically the participants, including me, would probably just be thinking about wanting to be back in the warmth of their cars.

As we stopped by the receptionist area, I asked if it would be possible for us to use the chapel for a brief moment before we walked the labyrinth. The staff was more than accommodating, showing such hospitality in offering the chapel to us for as long as we would like to use it that day. Even though worshipping in that space was not what we had planned or expected, we reminded ourselves that life rarely goes according to OUR plans, but it always goes according to GOD'S plans.

As we walked through the labyrinth under umbrellas, the path was not easy. Sometimes our shoes got stuck in the muddy places. Sometimes in the places on the path where the water had pooled enough that we couldn't simply step over it, we had to decide whether we would walk through it or navigate new ways around it. Our pace was slower and more deliberate in the rain. Our path probably seemed longer and less clear in the cold. Yet after our holy wandering, as we reflected together as a group, sometimes life and sometimes faith is like that.

So often we have in our mind's eye how things are supposed to go. We live the experience before it happens, playing out our expectations as well as the roles and rules others and we should live by. We are so determined to believe life should go a certain way, we are surprised, shocked and dismayed that this is not the case.

We do not always know how to adapt, accept, and adjust when circumstances change. We argue with reality, with others, with ourselves, and with God when life does not go according to how we hoped and envisioned. We have experienced sunny days, and we are annoyed, frustrated, and even angered when the storms come.

Yet, the truth is life can change. The storm can come out of nowhere. A pathway, which was clear yesterday, is unclear and confusing today. Suddenly life is messy. The rains of disappointment and heartbreak, which come at us so fast and fiercely, sting our hearts and spirits. As we slog through the muck and mire, we wonder if our steps will ever become easy once again. As we shiver in the cold, we wonder if we will ever feel warmth again.

The deliberate walking of the labyrinth teaches us to walk the path set before us on that day at that moment. Even though one day the path may be walked with

## 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](#)

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[Emmaus Homes](#)

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[Insurance Board](#)

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[New Athens Home](#)

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

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

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

[ISC Directory](#)

## Pray for...

**Prayer list for**

**April 7-13, 2019**

**Churches & Pastors**

- Highland Evangelical UCC,

swift, ease-filled steps, the next day the same path will need more deliberate and cautious movements and decisions. No day is the same. No experience can be duplicated. No journey can be repeated in quite the same way. The challenge always is to keep walking the path, trusting the process, letting go of what cannot be controlled, and remembering we do not walk alone.

Labyrinth walking is a beautiful metaphor for life and walking in faith. Walking in faith requires trusting in the Spirit of God to lead in all times, all seasons, and all conditions and circumstances. Walking in faith challenges us to live and be in the now. Walking in faith invites us to remember that whatever difficulty or obstacle we are facing, there is a way around it or through it by relying upon God's grace. Walking in faith also reminds us that no present trouble lasts, for it too shall pass.

Whatever you are facing, however the journey appears to you right now, where ever you are on the pathway, remember you do not walk it alone. God is there to guide you, to support you, to hold you, to nudge you and enable you to keep going so that you might experience the grace, beauty, and peace that lies ahead.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

### International Disaster Response Overview

**Total 2018 Support: \$235,000**

A Year of Service to Disaster Survivors in:

- Armenia (Hailstorm and Heavy Rains)
- Cuba (Floods from Sub Tropical Storm Alberto)
- Democratic Republic of Congo (Ebola Outbreak)
- Haiti (Earthquake; Hurricanes Matthew, Irma and Maria)
- Philippines (Mayon Volcano Eruption, Typhoon Mangkhut)
- Sumadaja, West, South and East Serbia (Floods)
- East Africa (Famine)
- El Salvador (Drought, Floods)
- Fiji (Cyclone Winston)
- Honduras (Floods)
- Indonesia (Earthquake)
- Kenya (Floods)
- Mexico (Earthquake)
- Somalia (Drought)
- Uganda (Landslides and Flooding Emergency)
- United States (Various Disasters in 16+ States)
- Zambia (Heavy Rains, Floods)
- Egypt (Fires)
- Ethiopia (Landslide)
- Guatemala (Volcano)
- India (Floods)
- Japan (Floods)
- Madagascar (Cyclone)
- Nepal (Earthquake)
- Tanzania (Floods)
- Zimbabwe (Cholera Outbreak)



**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](#). **Eden Spring Newsletter:** Click [here](#) for the spring flyer of Eden events.

### Interim Ministry 2 Class Offered

- 4:00 pm St. John UCC, 307 W. Clay St., Collinsville, IL 62234 USA (West Room)

Interim Ministry 2 consists of a five-day classroom experience, plus approximately six months of individual fieldwork, including monthly conference calls. This particular class will be offered in the following format:

Rev. Will (Alisha) VerDuin,  
Designated Sr. Pastor

### Retired Pastor

- Rev. Allen and Jan Kolmer,  
New Baden, IL

### National Staff

- Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, UCC  
General Minister & President

### 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.

- 3 days, May 2-4 (Pt 1)
  - and 2 days, May 17-18 (Pt 2)
  - the fieldwork conference calls will begin about 30 days after completion of Part 2, using Zoom Video Conferencing
- Interim Ministry 2 allows participants to practice and hone newly acquired skills, and equips trained traditional interim ministers to lead a congregation through a systematic assessment of its pastoral needs and congregational goals by looking closely at five areas of a healthy congregation, referred to as Focus Points:
- Heritage: reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed
  - Mission: defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction.
  - Leadership: reviewing the congregation's ways of organizing, and developing an effective clergy and lay leadership structure.
  - Connections: discovering all the relationships and networks a faith community builds beyond itself.
  - Future: synthesizing the interim work, activating and training the pastoral search/call committee, and coaching the committee (as requested) to accomplish its work.

Those who meet the course requirements receive a certificate of completion as an Intentional Interim Minister, issued by the Center for Congregational Health.

**Instructors for the course:**

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan, Certified IIM and Church Consultant, Faculty, CCH and also D. Min. Faculty, Interdenominational Theo. Cntr, ATL GA

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

**For additional information, and/or to register by phone, please contact:**

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan - Faculty - (404) 550-2842

Rev. Dr. Heather Arcovitch - Course Coordinator - (203) 687-9172

[Register for this course](#)



**The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...**

Members and friends of Zion commissioned Paul Sterrett at our Sunday service as he starts a new chapter in his life as a Peace Corps volunteer. Paul will be leaving us for a two year work project in Namibia, Africa where he will be trained in HIV education. He is excited to be joining the Peace Corps and working in such an important field. At the end of the service a picture was taken of Paul surrounded by those who will be praying and supporting him from his home community. We hope you will join us in wishing God's blessings upon him as his two year travels start on April 8.

**Alternate Care Site Planning Workshop** - Many times our churches are called upon to shelter people during and after a disaster. Knowing the mechanics of opening, running and closing down a shelter are key to caring for our communities in times of need. The Regional Healthcare coalition, HOPE, (Healthcare Organizations Preparing for Emergencies) has two training sessions available to educate churches (and other organizations) on running shelters and other alternate care sites.

The first is on sheltering during and after a disaster. The training will explain everything a church will need to know about what is involved in sheltering. The date is June 7 at the Gateway Regional Medical Center in Granite City from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. Registration is at 8:00 am. The pastor, a staff member, or key lay people are welcome to attend. The pastor is not required to attend with lay people. Sheltering [flyer](#).

The second training is for facilities that have a working agreement to be an alternative care site for a healthcare facility. This only applies to a few locations but is included. The date for that training is June 6 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm at the Gateway Regional Medical Center in Granite City. Healthcare site [flyer](#). For more information, contact Lee French, Preparedness Coordinator, Memorial Hospital Belleville, 618-257-5242 or [lee.french@bjc.org](mailto:lee.french@bjc.org).



Metro East Hunger Relief & Food Pantry Managers and Volunteers are invited to connect, share and learn on Wed, April 24 from 2 pm - 4 pm at 1 Regency Plaza, Suite 200 in Collinsville. Allison Hoshide from Hoyleton Youth and Family Services will provide information about their Mental



First Aid Class and other help that is available to those experiencing a mental health problem. AgeSmart will offer a variety of services to help older adults remain independent in their homes and communities. They will also tell about a detailed resource and community guide that they will have on hand for you to share with your clients. Attendees may share with the group any updates and flyers they may have. For more information, contact Amy Funk at 618-344-4230 or [amyfunk@illinois.edu](mailto:amyfunk@illinois.edu). This material is funded by the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), University of Illinois Extension, United States Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

### Is your church interested in joining the growing Messy Church movement?

If so, take advantage of a regional training opportunity this spring. Join us for the Getting Started in Messy Church Training that will take place at St. Paul UCC-Waterloo on Saturday, May 18th from 9 am until 3:30. Rev. Roberta Egli, the Executive Director of Messy Church USA will be leading the training which will give all present an introduction into Messy Church core values and practices. The cost for the training is \$150 per team (1 to 5 people, \$25 per additional person) which includes training supplies, one copy of *Get Messy* magazine, one *Messy Church* book, lunch, and morning hospitality. Pre-Registration is required and can be completed by clicking [here](#). Check out this [flyer](#).



## DuBois Center News

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

### 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](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) or 618-787-2202.



### HORSE CAMPS - Ready to Ride?

Horse Campers spend more time with the ponies, but still have time for other camp favorites like swimming, 9-Square, vespers and crafts. If the weather cooperates, they have the option to ride each day. Some mornings, these horse enthusiasts are up and at 'em long before breakfast to feed, groom and tack the herd. An early morning ride - in the cool of the day - is a great reward for early morning chores! Later in the day, the stalls need to be mucked out. Horse campers take turns, and actually have fun while learning about the responsibilities of caring for horses. Younger campers can hop aboard the **Pony Express** for an introduction to horse camp. Older ones can choose from a variety of sessions. Ready to register online? Click [here](#). For more information, pick up a camp brochure at your UCC church or check out the [brochure](#) online. Contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202

or [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org) to have one mailed to you.

**PONY EXPRESS** (completed grades 4-6)

July 21-24

**HORSIN' AROUND** (completed grades 5-7)

June 9-14, July 14-19

**SADDLE 'EM UP** (completed grades 7-9)

June 7-12, July 14-19

**WRANGLERS** (completed grades 8-12)

June 16-21





### FATHER-SON RETREAT 2019

The rains poured down and the winds blew! You're together at camp, so whatcha gonna do? Jump in puddles, slide in the mud, play in the rain and just have fun! Watch for more photos and a

recap next week and on [Facebook](#).

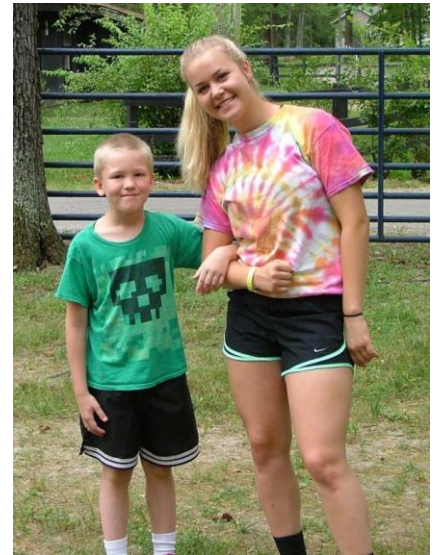
### LENTEN WORK DAY April 13 - RVSP by April 8

Stretch your muscles, get a little dirty and make a difference! Help spruce up the grounds for our busy spring and summer seasons. It's a great Lenten discipline for you and a wonderful way to get involved and help at DuBois Center. Projects vary depending on the weather and the skills of the workers - carpentry, cleaning, painting, raking and more. A hearty lunch is provided. Check out and share this flyer. **RSVP** by Monday, April 8 to 618-787-2202 or [email](#). If this date doesn't work for you, there will be a Green DuBois Stewardship Day on Saturday, April 27 - or call to set up a different day for your family, church or friend 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 [email](#) 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



**To celebrate National Prevention Week 2019, Hoyleton Youth & Family Services is offering presentations to raise awareness around substance use trends in Southern Illinois and how to keep families and communities safe.**

Hoyleton will provide all participants with safe medication disposal bags as well as resources for those struggling with substance use and abuse. Presentations can be offered in Clinton, Monroe, St. Clair, and Washington Counties. If you're interested in a presentation, please contact Tasha at [nmorrow@hoyleton.org](mailto:nmorrow@hoyleton.org) or 618-688-4769.

**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.





## Langenberg Leadership Forum

Leadership for the Common Good

The Walker Institute presents its Langenberg Leadership Forum: Leadership for the Common Good with the subject, *The Contours of Ethical*

*Leadership in a Secular World*, on Tues, April 16 from 7:30 am - 9:00 am Eden Theological Seminary, Schroer Commons in Webster Groves, MO. The April breakfast features Dennis Lower, the President and CEO of Cortex Innovation Community. Mr. Lower has a unique perspective on faith and business that you don't want to miss.

*The Contours of Ethical Leadership in a Secular World* will include:

- Experiences that have shaped his faith journey.
- How religious dualism has unwittingly contributed to polarization in our society - the objectification and dismissal of the "Other".
- The importance of being centered - internal validation, authenticity, and self-actualization.
- The importance of presence in leadership (and everything else) - "Be Here Now".
- The care and feeding of your soul - embracing beauty, creativity, imagination, and humor to remain forever young.

This free event includes a light breakfast at no cost. [Registration](#) is required.

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 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).



**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, April 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.

**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.

**The Illinois Conference of Churches is partnering with Faith in Place (our official partner) to join them in their Advocacy Day on May 9 at the Capitol in Springfield.** We encourage you to ride one of their buses to be kinder to the environment, if the departure locations work for you. We will provide you some additional talking points and direct you to the offices of your senator and representatives. We will hold an interfaith prayer service to pray for our legislators as they make important decisions this year. Watch our website and the Faith in Place website for more details as they unfold. Click [here](#) for the whole newsletter.

## 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](mailto:sarahjimkoester@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:salemuccalh@gmail.com).

## Region 2

**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.

**New Hanover Zoar UCC will hold a Vendors For a Cause Quarter Auction at Waterloo VFW (406 Veterans Dr, Waterloo) on Fri, April 5 beginning at 7 pm.** Doors open at 6 pm. Quarter Auction, Money Tree, attendance prizes and 50/50 and basket raffles. \$5 donation paddle admission. Receive 1 extra quarter auction paddle if you

## Region 5

**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](mailto:rjbraundmeier@gmail.com) or 618-520-0185.

### **Region 5 Wednesday Evening Lenten Service?**

Each Wednesday, services travel to a different location and begin at 7 pm with refreshments following.

- April 3- Grantfork UCC, Grantfork
  - April 10- Immanuel UCC, Hamel.
- All are welcome.

**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.

## Region 5

**Salem UCC in Alhambra: Easter season schedule.**

**April 3, April 10 - 7:00 pm** Lent Worship

**Thurs, April 18 - 7:00 pm** Maundy Thursday Living Last Supper

**Fri, April 19 - 7:00 pm** Good Friday Tenebrae Service

**Sat, April 20 - 10:00 am** Easter Egg Hunt

**Sun, April 21 - 6:30 am** Sunrise Service; 8:00 am Easter Service; 10:00 am Easter Service.

Contact 618-488-3215 or [salemuccalh@gmail.com](mailto:salemuccalh@gmail.com)

## Region 8

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

- Wednesday, April 3: Brenda Crisp, Director of Uni-Pres Kindercottage will lead this study and discussion on Poverty, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall,

purchase an item off a vendor's table.

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

#### Region 4

**Brighton St. John's UCC will hold Friday Fish Fries on April 5 and 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.

Everyone is invited to shop. All proceeds will go to support the Exhale Mission Trips.

**On Saturday, April 6, 2019, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul UCC, Lebanon, will host a concert from the sixth season of Heartland Community Chorus.** The chorus is made up of singers from the local area including Highland and surrounding communities. The theme for this concert is "Sing Me to Heaven". Mark your calendar now.

**Highland Evangelical UCC will host its Feed the Need Dinner Auction on Sat, April 13 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 12454 State Rte. 143 in Highland.** Doors open at 5 pm and dinner will be served at 6 pm. Tickets are \$25 per person. Contact 618-654-7459 to purchase tickets. Proceeds to go to Highland Area Christian Services Ministry (HACSM), Highland Community School Angel Fund, and Kids Hope USA as well as other church ministries.

**Marine UCC will hold a Trivia Night on Sat, April 27 beginning at 7 pm.** Doors open at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$12 per person up to 8 players per table or \$96 per table. Please contact 618-887-4465 for reservations. If after office hours, leave your name, phone number, and the number of people attending the event. All proceeds benefit Hoyleton Youth & Family Services.

Biblical text: Mark 14:7  
- Wednesday, April 10: Elizabeth George will lead this study and discussion on the #MeToo Movement, 6:00 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 5:00-6:00 pm with the studies following from 6:00-7:45 pm. All are welcome!

**Biddleborn Trinity UCC will hold its Soup/Chili Dinner on Sun, April 7 beginning at 11 am until the soup runs out.** Menu includes chili, various soups, hot dogs, and desserts. Baked items available for purchase. A free will offering will be taken.

**Zion UCC in New Baden will hold a Fish Dinner on 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

**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.