"Real Time" vs. "Church Time"

Often, we joke in the church that there is "real time" and there is "church time." When this is said, it is usually to indicate the rhythms of life and decision-making in the church. Some make this comment when they are frustrated that things are not moving in a time frame or pace of which they would expect or be more comfortable.

Yes, I believe it is true there is "real time" and there is "church time." However, I don't think this is such a bad thing. In fact, if we were to embrace it and trust in God's timing instead of our own, I am confident we would find the richness of God's plans and purposes for our lives lived together.

In what we name as the "real world" (perhaps our jobs, the other institutions we are involved in, or the projects and programs we are involved in) time is framed by schedules, meetings, and deadlines. In this arena, time is perceived as being controlled, managed and created by us. That is until something unexpected, something which is clearly out of our control, happens. A crisis or a tragedy re-frames the time frame, shifts our priorities, or can cause everything to feel like it is on pause mode. These moments are brief reminders that time is not truly ours to create and control. Yet, when the crisis or tragedy subsides, the immediate response is to get back to "normal" or business as usual.

In the world of the church, in the world of committing ourselves to trusting in the ebbs and flows of God's designs, patterns and plans, we are called to view time differently. Time (or what is named as the present moment) is a gift from God, not of our making. It can be a blessing, rather than a burden. In God's design there are no deadlines, limits, or scheduled moments when the presence of the Spirit will move, create, and order the chaos. One of the hardest pieces of faith is trusting the Spirit WILL move, create, and order the chaos in the ways needed, but it will not be according to OUR plans, schedules, and time frames.

The proclamation of "God's time is not our time" is another way of saying God and the movement of God's Spirit is not contingent on the timing we so desperately try to control, manage and create. If you don't believe this is true, think of the last time you got so frustrated when something was not happening as fast or in the manner you hoped it would. After pushing, pulling, prying and pleading for some sort of movement, perhaps you gave up. Then after a passage of time when you had either given up on it being a possibility or simply forgot about your previous focus and obsession, things fell into place in a way that surprised and delighted you. That my friends--is God's timing at work. That is the surprising, delightful movement of the Spirit. And at it's best perhaps this could be what we might embrace, accept and trust as "church time."

In this new year, I invite you to consider believing, accepting, and trusting, not in OUR timing, but in the timing and movement of the Spirit which never fails us.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 12
3 pm - Preaching at the Installation Worship at Zion UCC, Hoyleton

January 19
9 am - Preaching at Concordia UCC, Belleville for their 175th Anniversary
2:30 pm - Preaching at St. John UCC, Wood River for their 100th Anniversary

THIS IS YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

To invite me to your church for a particular event, season in the life of the church or a special occasion, please reach out to me via email at sjohnson@iscucc.org or by phone at (618) 654-2125 (office phone) or (618) 882-8247.

Important Links
iscuucc.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
Jan 12 - 18, 2020
Churches & Pastors
- Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate
- Jamestown St. Paul UCC, Rev. P. Jerry Bennett
Festival of Faith Scheduled for February

Festival of Faith 2020, an event for 6th-8th graders and their chaperones, will take place on February 15 - 16 (Saturday & Sunday) at DuBois Center. For a third year, we welcome Craig Bielke from St Paul UCC in Belleville as the event’s leader and thank him for taking on this exciting but challenging responsibility! All are invited to worship, play, grow and experience God’s great back yard at DuBois Center. Please note the important dates - January 17 for space requests and February 4 for paperwork/payment to the ISC office. The space request form ensures that your youth and chaperones will have space at the event and helps us plan for housing and meals. The February 4 deadline allows us time to communicate back with chaperones, plan activities/discussions, and confirm housing placement and management of dietary issues. Here is the packet for planning and registration of your church’s youth. For more information, click here.

2019 Financial Books Closing

Illinois South Conference’s 2019 Financial books will close on Friday, January 10, 2020. Please indicate that they should be designated for 2019 and date the check for 2019. Funds received after January 10, 2020 will be designated as 2020 donations.

Hoyleton Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ
and
Illinois South Conference
Invite You to Attend the Installation of
Rev. Sharon Patton
Sunday, January 12, 2020
3:00 pm
Hoyleton Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ
137 East St Louis Street
Hoyleton, Illinois 62803
Pastors are invited to participate in the service and are asked to wear red stoles. If you plan to participate, please arrive at 2:30 pm.

Retired Pastors
- Rev. Ken and Jean Knobloch, Maeystown, IL

People with Life Concerns
- Please keep Rev. David Beebe in your prayers as he has been hospitalized while dealing with some serious health issues. He has served as Intentional Interim for several churches in Illinois South Conference over the years. You may reach him by email or his home address at 1219 Flagstone Terrace, Lake St. Louis, MO 63367.
- Pray for Rev. E. John Schaller as he deals with health issues. Rev. Schaller is the father of Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss. Cards may be sent to 623 Hamacher St, Waterloo, IL 62298.
- Keep Pastor Matt (Laura) Friz in your prayers as he deals with health issues. Pastor Friz is the pastor at Floraville St. Paul UCC. Cards may be sent to 13 Josiah Ln, Millstadt IL 62260.
- Please pray for Revs. Lev and Linda Reynolds as they deal with Lev’s health issues. Rev. Linda Reynolds is the former Associate Pastor for Belleville St. Paul UCC and both have served on several ISC teams. Cards may be sent to 2490 W Randolph St, St. Charles, MO 63301.
- Pray for Rev. Bob Coffey as he deals with some health issues. Rev. Coffey is serving as Pastor for St. Peter’s UCC in Lenzburg. Cards may be sent to 6213 Jo Ann Dr, Belleville, IL 62223.
- Keep Marilyn (Rev. Paul) Thompson in your prayers as she deals with health issues. Rev. Thompson is retired, but serves on the ISC Recruitment
Emergency Readiness
For any of you that attended the 2019 Annual Meeting, one of the items that remains in our thoughts was when one of our delegates passed out during the meeting. That was obviously not a part of his, nor our, agenda for the day. Delegates expressed concern over the way the event was handled and the ISC staff and planning team felt unprepared for this medical emergency. Thankfully we had a trained EMS worker, nurses, and medical staff on site, but we hadn't planned for the event. We all know that accidents, medical emergencies, and disasters can happen at any time, to any of us, but we don't think it actually will happen to us. Since the Annual Meeting, staff and the planning team have had several discussions about how to be better prepared for such issues. We would like to invite those with a background in emergency readiness to join us in being prepared for such issues (which we pray will not happen) at future Conference gatherings. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts, plans, and time, please let Christy Pursell know at cpursell@iscucc.org. We will most likely develop a plan through emails, conference calls, and/or Zoom gatherings.

UCC Calls for Action
As a Just Peace Church, the United Church of Christ has long advocated for diplomatic and peaceful engagement with Iran. We have spoken out on multiple occasions in opposition to inflammatory rhetoric and direct provocation that could ultimately lead to war. In response to recent events, our UCC leadership has issued a call to prayer and fasting for peace during this season of Epiphany, to bring us back from the brink of war with Iran.
Read more...

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...
Rev. Bob Koch and Larry Wagner ate together at the head table during a New Athens Auxiliary luncheon. Behind them two ladies from the Blue Grass Shake are entertaining. Pastor Bob is the vice-president of the New Athens Home for the Aged Board and Larry serves as president of the Board. These men are extremely active in their churches, St. John's UCC in New Athens and Holy Ghost UCC in Darmstadt. Besides his normal duties, Pastor Bob may be seen playing with the youngsters in their day care or helping with a church fund raiser. Larry has lent his wonderful singing voice to Holy Ghost's choir for many years and also helps with fund raisers and wherever needed. It's folks like this that make us proud of the Illinois South Conference. Photo and article by Carol Mercer.
WORKING AT CAMP IS A REAL JOB!

There is something to be learned from any job, but there are more resume-building skills and practical work experience packed into one summer on camp staff than in almost any other job! Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Leadership and Planning are just some of the skills that come to mind. Working at summer camp IS a real job, but also an opportunity to serve others and make forever friends. DuBois Center is currently accepting applications for energetic, child-focused and fun-loving individuals to serve on our summer staff. Check out the Summer of Service flyer and this piece from the American Camp Association, then consider whether an amazing summer at DuBois Center might be just the opportunity you have been looking for. Positions include cabin counselors/activity leaders, barn assistant/counselors and coordinators. FAITH. FUN. HARD WORK. GREAT FRIENDS. LONG HOURS. AMAZING MEMORIES. Applications are now available online at www.DuBoisCenter.org or by contacting DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

Know someone who might make a great camp leader? Please forward this article to them or use this form to recommend them.

OFFICE & EVENT COORDINATOR Employment Opportunity

Enjoy connecting with people and the outdoors? Fluent in computer-speak? Looking for a position that is more than just a job? DuBois Center is seeking an Office & Event Coordinator. This is a permanent, part-time position; the purpose of which is to organize, coordinate and implement office and event functions at DuBois Center. Job segments include camper family and guest relations, data management (financial, camper, guest group and employee), and assistance with marketing efforts. The person filling this position will be an integral part of the ISCUCC staff and the DuBois Center team. To apply, please submit a resume and cover letter to DuBois Center via email at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. Click here for the position description.

BOOTS, CAMERAS & TENNIS BALLS Recycle to DuBois Center!

A variety of sizes, from child size 11 through adult size 14, are needed. New or used, in fair to good condition - we’ll take them! Larger adult boots can be expensive to purchase, so used ones are at the top of our wish list. The search also continues for digital cameras. We know those small, point and shoot models - the Coolpix, PowerShot and FinePix - are out there gathering dust! Recycle them to DuBois Center and we’ll use them for scavenger hunts, photography classes, photo booths and more. Requirements: good working condition and SD memory card compatible. Tennis balls are new to our list. Used ones are needed for games and our teams course, where they a safety addition on fence posts tops. For more information contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

SNEAK PEEK SUMMER CAMP 2020

Just 152 days and counting till the first day of summer camp at DuBois Center! Registration opens Feb 15, so use this schedule to begin planning your summer now! Stay up to date. Check our Facebook page or email questions.

VACATION REQUEST DUE?

Consider a week (or even a few days) at DuBois Center and join our 2020 Summer Camp team! WANTED: fun, engaging and caring volunteers to serve as nurses, chaplains, photographers, cabin counselors, time-off counselors, activity specialists and barn helpers. Minimum age is 18 for most positions; young adults and older adults are welcome. Give of your time and talent, make a difference and gain a wonderful sense of satisfaction! For more information, check out the volunteer page of our web site or contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.
WINTER PROJECTS: Upholstery, Refinishing, Repairing
If you like to work with your hands and have some spare time over the winter, DuBois Center has some indoor winter projects - maybe one just for you. Enjoy refinishing furniture? We have some wood-frame chairs in need of some TLC. Upholstery interest you more? We have two chairs that need attention - backs and seats only. Here's an interesting one... refinishing arrows. Removing and replacing damaged feathers takes time, patience and the right tools. We have a couple dozen that need attention. All three of these projects can be done in the comfort of your home or here at camp. For more information, contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

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!

Health & Human Service Sunday is January 26, 2020. CHHSM hopes that you will help them spread the word about the importance of local Health & Human Services on that day. To help you with preparations for worship, they have prepared liturgy for you to use. Click here to see what is available. Share your stories about your celebrations of Health & Human Services, and CHHSM will share them through social media.

Discernment, Challenge & Inspiration
Discernment  Our first event, "Preparing for the new year; practicing discernment in times of change and challenge," is a half-day retreat held on the Eden campus from 8 - noon next Saturday the 11th. Led by Patience Schock, founder of Compass, and Steve Lawler, Walker Leadership Institute Director, this retreat is for those new to discernment and for those who already use some form of this practice. Whether your interest is in vocational, job-related or relational discernment, or is simply a part of deepening your continued walk in faith, you will find this retreat a time of fellowship and learning. A flyer for the event can be downloaded by clicking here.
Challenge  Eric Klinenberg, NYU sociologist and scholar of urban studies, culture, and media, will be speaking on his book Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life on Wednesday, January the 15th, at 7:00 pm at the Schlafly Branch of the St. Louis Public Library. His book has been called by Jon Stewart "A comprehensive, entertaining, and compelling argument for how rebuilding social infrastructure can help heal divisions in our society and move us forward." Eric's work engages issues of gun violence, community well-being, inequality, and the Common Good. He challenges us to find ways to enhance our community's social infrastructure. This talk will be part of the launch of a St. Louis social infrastructure project.
Inspiration  On Tuesday, January 21, the Langenberg Leadership Forum features Dr. Art McCoy, the transformational Superintendent of Jennings School District. In Jennings, he has led the effort to achieve 100% graduation, career, and college placement for the last 4 years. His dedication to the youth leadership, WE Schools Program, is featured on their nationally broadcasted WE Day special hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, and featuring Selena Gomez, Natalie Portman, Chance the Rapper, Bill Nye, and Ali Mahershala. Dr. McCoy's service to the community includes board membership for the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Federal Reserve Bank, St. Louis Magic House, Harris Stowe-State University Board of Regents, the Muny, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the St. Louis American, The Boy Scouts of America, the NAACP, and BJC St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Memory Cafe to be held monthly at Senior Services Plus, Inc., 2603 N Rodgers Ave, Alton on January 15 from 1:30 pm - 3 pm and the 3rd Wednesday of each month throughout the year. Memory problems should not keep you at home. Join us for an afternoon of conversation and activities to start your day off right. It will be led by a professional who understands the challenges memory loss causes, both for the person directly and their loved one. No charge to attend. Registration is requested.

Attend as many cafes as you wish. A care partner must attend with individuals experiencing memory loss. For more information, contact Jane Morgan at jmorgan@seniorservicesplus.org or 618-465-3298, ext. 144.
What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

St. John UCC in Collinsville presents a VBS Showcase on Fri, Jan 3, 2020 from Noon-2 pm. A free lunch will be served at Noon! Come take a look at the VBS starter kits for 2020, share ideas, and coordinate sharing decorations. A Group Publishing Representative will be present to introduce Group's VBS curriculum. Cokesbury is sending curriculum kits to review. RSVP to Dana at 344-2526.

Job Opportunity: Deaconess Nurse Ministry has a position open for a part-time nurse to work with UCC clergy and their families in health and wellness support. The nurse will work in geographic region of the Illinois South Conference and Missouri Mid-South Conference (St Louis and Eastern Association) to provide case management support. Please contact Rev. Donna Pupillo at dpupillo@faithnurses.org with a resume.

St. Paul's UCC, Freeburg is hosting THE WAY #8, a retreat for 8th -12th grade youth (and interested adults) of all faith backgrounds on January 31- February 2, 2020. The Way is a unique experience designed to help you grow in faith and understanding of the teaching of Jesus Christ. Join us for Christian fellowship, worship, and prayer in extraordinary youth-led ministry. The weekend cost is $20, registration is due January 18. You will find more information and a registration form at stpaulsfreeburg.org.

Region 3

St. John's UCC of Brighton and the Loyal Daughters Ministry will hold their annual Soup's On fundraiser on Sun, Jan 19 from 11 am - 2 pm in their fellowship hall. This "all you can eat" Fundraiser will offer a vast variety of soups to sample and enjoy. Adults $8; Children under 12 years old $4. The event supports the charitable ministries of our Women's Ministry and the Southwestern Pack-A-Sack program organized by the Loyal Daughters. Carry out available. For more information call the church at 618-372-3737.

Celebrate Wood River St. John UCC 100 Year Anniversary. Worship time each Sunday is 9:30 am.
Jan 19 - Celebration of the entire church at 9:30 am worship, followed by lunch and a 2 pm program.
Feb 16 - "Marriage" reunion of anyone married at Wood River St John UCC.

Collinsville St John UCC is looking for a Music Associate position to accompany the Sanctuary Choir during Wednesday night choir rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. The time frame is from January through May and then September through May. The pay is $15-$25 depending on qualifications. Please send resumes and/or questions to opursell33@gmail.com.

Region 4

Job Opportunities: Collinsville St John UCC is hiring a Crib Room Attendant for 8 am to 12 noon on Sundays. Duties: to monitor infants and toddlers for two worship services, maintain paperwork for children & families, recruit and train crib room volunteers, ensure safety and cleanliness of crib room, assist with development and fulfillment of policies, correspond with families through mailings and emails, and to work with and recruit volunteers for special church events. Pay: $13-15 per hour Contact email.

Region 5

Alhambra Salem UCC will host its 72nd Annual Sausage Supper on Sat, Jan 25 from 2:30 pm - 8 pm. All you can eat menu includes fresh homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, bread, applesauce, dessert, coffee and milk. Advanced sausage orders available as link or bulk sausage, backbones, or ribs by contacting 618-488-3733 or ooey5@agtelco.com. Pick up is Thurs, Jan 23 from 10 am - 6 pm or Sat, Jan 25 from 9 am - 8 pm. Adults $10; Children 5 - 10 $5; Children 4 and under Free. All carry outs for adult price.

Region 9

Belleville Christ UCC will hold its 41st Annual Wurstmart on Sun, January 26 from 11 am - 4 pm. All you can eat! Pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, applesauce, dessert, and coffee or tea. Adults $11; Children ages 6-9 $5; Children under 5 Free! Carry outs available!

Memory Cafe, A Winter Wonderland, will be held at the Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main St., Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 on Thursday, January 9 from 10 am - 11:30 am. No charge to attend. Registration is requested. For more information on this location, contact 618-656-0300 or info@mainstcc.org.

A third Memory Cafe is at the Collinsville Senior Citizen Center, 420 E Main St, Collinsville, IL 62234 on the first Thursday of the month beginning on February 6, 2020 from 10 am - 11:30 am. No charge to attend. Registration is requested. For more information on this location, contact 618-344-7787.

All three Memory Cafes are sponsored by St. John's Community Care in Collinsville.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...