Sharing Ideas
In the next couple of weeks, I will be sharing writings of my colleagues who have used our fall study trip to Birmingham as a springboard to talk about a difficult subject we often avoid in the church—racism. In their writings you will discover a common summons to the Church to be about the kingdom work of creating Godly justice, mercy, and equality in our churches, communities and in the world. The Rev. Gordon Rankin, the current Conference Minister of the New Hampshire Conference, wrote this first article on righteous anger. Gordon is a colleague I deeply admire. He is a brilliant leader with a pastoral heart and a prophetic voice. One of the things I have deeply appreciated about Gordon's leadership is not only his wonderful sense of humor, but also his calm presence in difficult situations. Like the scriptures say of the Divine, Gordon is "slow to anger and abounding in love." Therefore, when he writes of his "AHA" moment in understanding angry in a new way as it relates to injustice, his sentiment is genuine and profound.

I pray his words and message might offer you an "AHA" moment as well.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

Always Angry

There is a piece of dialogue in the original Avengers movie that long perplexed me. During the movie there is an ongoing wonderment about how Bruce Banner had learned to manage his anger and not uncontrollably turn into the raging Hulk. During the Battle of New York, the Avengers need the might of the Hulk and urge Banner to transform. In response, Banner says, "You want to know my secret? I am always angry."

For a long time, the idea of being "always angry" made no sense to me. If I am totally honest, I am not one who does anger a lot. Sure, I can get frustrated or upset. But as far as having that anger that just sits in your gut and churns, that's not me. Or at least it wasn't.

It was my time working with our Lakota siblings that taught me the gift of anger. As I mourned with the Lakota community in remembrance of the several hundred men, women and children who were slaughtered by the first automatic rifles at Wounded Knee for dancing, my anger would stir. (By the way, the United States gave out more Medals of Honor for Wounded Knee than any other single battle in history.) As I learned about the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery (a church decree in support of colonization that later became United States law) and how our government has never in its history honored a treaty made with the Lakota people, my anger grew. As I stood with Water Protectors at Standing Rock, clearly seeing the snipers that the militarized police had in place on the hills around us, it became clear that the Doctrine of Discovery has a profound impact today and is not just a story from history. Anger became real to me in a new way.

It is always clear to me that my Lakota friends carried this sense of anger around with them all the time. And why wouldn't they? They have been slaughtered, dehumanized, lied to, betrayed, and relegated to some of the most inhospitable land there is. This happened not just throughout history but even during their lifetimes. How can there be a more appropriate response than anger?

I learned from my Lakota siblings that if I was to truly walk with them, to fully share human connection, to be an ally, that I needed to accept that the anger I felt would always be with me. And it is.

In November, I joined many of my Conference Minister colleagues in visiting Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma, Alabama. I found my anger there as well. I was a college history major. I knew all the stories. But I hadn't connected with the anger before. I'd like to be able to say this was because I was trained to be historically analytical. But I know in the depth of my soul that the truth is that I was protected from such feelings by my whiteness. Yet during this journey with trusted...
I knew the stories of lynchings. I would have told you with conviction that such acts were reprehensible. But there was something about learning that lynchings were such public festivals that people would take photos to make them into postcards that pierced through and made me angry. During our visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, reading all the names of people who had been lynched broke my heart. But it wasn't until I read the names of those who were lynched in the county where I went to college that I really connected with my anger.

In our conversations about racism, too often reconciliation gets defined as working towards forgiving and moving on. Let me be clear: that's a fable of white privilege. Anger is the appropriate response to the destructive evil of racism. Privilege encourages us to ignore this truth. But faith, I have come to believe, asks us to join our siblings of color in their anger.

I now know the experience of being always angry. And I think it has made me a more faithful person.

Written by Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister of the New Hampshire Conference

---

**Early-Bird Discount Deadline - Feb 14 - Day of Discipleship**

This year, Day of Discipleship presents "Healthy & Whole Congregations," on Saturday, Feb 29 from 9:30 am - 2 pm at St. Paul UCC in Waterloo. Rev Dr. Sarah Lund, UCC Minister for Disabilities & Mental Health Justice, will be the keynote speaker, talking about how we can make our congregations welcoming to all. After the keynote, you can choose two workshops by other local experts who will give you suggestions and resources to help your congregations. To find out more about Day of Discipleship and Rev. Dr. Lund, click [here](#) or use this [form](#) to register and choose workshops you want to attend. To register online, click [here](#).

**Here are the workshops to choose from:**

**1 & 2 A Welcoming All - Justice for People with Mental Health Issues**

As the church, all are welcome to God's table. Discuss how your church may be able to ensure equality and welcome to those who suffer from mental health issues and their loved ones. Presented by Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, UCC Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice.

**1 & 2 B Self-Medication: So What?**

Look at ways people cope with their mental health - healthy & unhealthy. Come find out how untreated & undiagnosed mental health issues can be disruptive and how to support someone facing these health concerns. Presented by Yvonne Petito, Hoyalton Youth & Family Services.

**1 & 2 C Mental Health 101 Crash Course**

Mental Health is a difficult subject to approach with members of the congregation and with the loved ones of someone faced with mental health issues. Let’s define mental health disorders, who they affect, ways to approach the subject, and resources to help. Presented by Anne King Riley, Human Support Services.

**1 & 2 D Let’s Pay Back the Sacrifices of Veterans**

We owe much to the people who have served our country. Many times, mental health issues and PTSD go unidentified. We will discuss resources and what we can do to help those in need. Presented by Rev. Kristen Leslie, Eden Theological Seminary.

**1 & 2 E How to Help Those Who Can’t Remember**

Dementia is becoming more prevalent, and caring for a loved one with impaired memory and judgement presents many challenges for the family. Learning facts about the condition and strategies to address problem behaviors can improve quality of life for both the individual with dementia and caretakers. Presented by Nancy Berry, St. John's Community Care.

---

**Retired Pastors**
- Rev. Libby and Jane Feagans-King, Springfield, IL
- Pray for Rev. C.W. Lewis, father of Rev. Nancy Peebles, as he deals with some health issues. Rev. Lewis served as Interim Pastor in a few churches in the Illinois South Conference and resides now in Effingham.
- Pray for 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...
Grief’s Effect on Mental Health
Mental Health issues can be magnified when faced with our final days as well as times we suffer from the loss of a loved one. Let's talk about resources to aid during these times. Presented by Rev. Dr. John Allen, Chaplain and CPE Educator at SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital

Stop the Bleed
The number one cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. This workshop will teach you how to stop a bleed until professional help can arrive. Presented by Lynne Taylor, Christ UCC & Trained Instructor of Stop the Bleed Program.

Presentation on the Holocaust
On Wednesday, February 5, at 6:30 pm, Alhambra Salem UCC will host Mr. Steve Goldsmith, to speak on the Holocaust. Mr. Goldsmith was part of the Kindertransport, an organized rescue effort that took place during the months prior to the outbreak of World War II. The United Kingdom and several other nations took in over 10,000 predominantly Jewish children from Nazi Germany and other Nazi-occupied nations. The children were placed in foster homes, hostels, schools, and farms. Some received good treatment, and others were treated poorly and used as child labor. Often, they were the only members of their families to survive the Holocaust. The event is free and open to all. Salem United Church of Christ is located in Alhambra, Illinois on St. Rt. 140, exactly 5 miles east of I-55. For more information or questions, call the Salem Church Office at 618-488-3215.

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, in conjunction the Illinois South Conference, DuBois Center and Kindercottage, is proud to offer informational sessions in our Conference to help educate and inform individuals on ways they can pass the gift of faith and make a transformative difference beyond their lifetime. With three dates and locations during February, we hope to help individuals understand the importance of their legacy and how it can affect the lives of so many more children and individuals in the future. Click here for a flyer.

- Tues, Feb 4 at St. Paul UCC, 200 N Main St, Waterloo, IL 6:30 pm
- Tues, Feb 11 at St. John UCC, 55 W Church St, Mascoutah, IL 6:00 pm
- Tues, Feb 25 at St. Peter's UCC, 106 W Church St, Okawville, IL 6:00 pm

Green DuBois Lenten Devotional - In case you missed it last year!!
Illinois South Conference’s DuBois Center is happy to provide a Lenten Devotional written for and dedicated to DuBois Center, the camp and retreat center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ and to honor the Green DuBois initiative, which celebrates, honors and shares the wonder of the biodiversity of God found in this sacred setting. It was written by Rev. Dr. Donald C. Wagner. Photographs by Angela Hausmann, Marty Kemper, Scott Kuether, Jason Petry and other DuBois Center Photographers. It was edited by Jill Baker. Click here to download the devotional. You can also find the devotional on the Illinois South Conference website home page in the dropdown for DuBois Center or on the DuBois Center website under news and events.

Green DuBois is an initiative with three branches: Encouraging people to come see the amazing biodiversity we have at our outdoor ministry facility; actively managing our forests and woodland habitat; and increasing our ecological sustainability.

Planned Giving to Support Mission and Ministry Webinars
While a significant wealth transfer occurs (and will occur) in our country as our eldest generation passes, many congregations and ministries remain unprepared to promote planned giving options among their members. Preaching Generosity
It can be hard to talk about money. And yet Jesus spoke about it often, second only to the Kingdom of God. Join Rev. Andrew Warner (a Generosity Outreach of the United Church of Christ) to explore how to preach and teach about generosity and the use of our financial resources. Each webinar will focus on a specific liturgical season and a set of readings. We will plan out at least one preaching opportunity for teaching generosity as a spiritual practice.

Wednesday Feb. 26th - 2 pm Central
The Season of Lent: A Changed Life - Using the story of Nicodemus, we'll see how increasing generosity created change in his life. We'll look beyond the lectionary reading to consider the other two appearances of Nicodemus. The story will focus attention on what it means to experience change in our lives. Register here.

Monday April 20st - 2 pm Central
The Season of Easter: Beloved Community - The stories of Good Shepherd Sunday (May 3) speak to what it means to live generously in a community (Acts 2: 42-47, Ps. 23, and John 10: 1-10). This Sunday offers a chance to think broadly about the many forms of generosity and how it reinforces connections within a community. Register [here](#).

For ISC Estate Planning Record, click [here](#).

**Gateway Open & Affirming (ONA) 9th Annual Convocation (Life Changing and Life Saving) will be Sat, March 7 from 9 am - 4 pm at the Parkway UCC, 2841 N Ballas Rd in St. Louis.**

ONA is the UCC designation for congregations and other settings of the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

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

This year, we welcome Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, UCC Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, as our preacher/keynoter. Our worship leader will be Rev. Tom Ressler, pastor at St. Paul UCC in St. Louis.

In addition to the workshops, there will be the Eden Theological Seminary Bookstore and other displays, as well as fellowship, food, and fun! The morning worship will include the sacrament of Holy Communion and the offering will benefit the United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Coalition. Registration $20 per person/includes lunch or $120 per church with 6 or more attending. Registration deadline is February 29. Please pre-register for Gateway ONA's Ninth Annual Convocation. Questions? Contact: Lorin Cope, Convener, Gateway ONA at [lcope@eden.edu](mailto:lcope@eden.edu). Click [here](#) for more information and a registration form.

**Earthquake Recovery - Puerto Rico**

In Puerto Rico, a series of powerful earthquakes, including one of 6.4 magnitude on Tuesday, January 7, have killed one person, injured several, unleashed small landslides and caused homes and other buildings to crack and crumble. The earthquakes and aftershocks have taken out power across most of the island, also leaving hundreds of thousands without water.

Response:

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC associate general minister and co-executive for Global Ministries, is dispatching funds to Global Ministries partner IEUPR (Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico) so the church can assist with needs of first response, such as hygiene kits.

Disaster Ministries is also issuing an emergency appeal to continue to assist the people of the island. Goal: $250,000. Click [here](#) to donate.

UCC Disaster Ministries and the IEUPR have been collaborating on a multifaceted Hurricane Maria recovery program, including restoring homes (in particular, roofs). UCC Disaster Ministries is also supporting work to strengthen Ryder Memorial Hospital, sponsoring trauma recovery and disaster preparedness workshops, and renovating space for a Mission Center serving vulnerable survivors' recovery. For more information, click [here](#).

Prayer:

"Holy God, source of light and life, our hearts are once again grieving as we witness the many tragedies around us. We pray today for our siblings in Puerto Rico who have awakened to the challenges of these earthquakes. We pray for their strength and resilience. We pray for those who experienced loss and ask that they may find peace and comfort. Help us to be a source of your presence and love with all in this moment. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen." 2020 Pray for Puerto Rico Bulletin [Insert](#).

**Have you ever wondered....?** by Richard Ellerbrake, for the Justice & Mission Team

Churches may lobby-supporting or opposing legislation and ballot measures—within generous limits allowed by federal law. How much lobbying? The Internal Revenue Service states churches “may lobby freely” so long as “no substantial part of a charity’s activities...(is) carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.” What is “Substantial”? The IRS provides no guidance on how much lobbying is “substantial.” But a 1952 federal court decision states that 5% of an organization’s “time and effort” was an insubstantial part of its overall activities. Tax practitioners generally advise charities can safely devote 3-5% of overall activities toward lobbying.

Activities include not just expenditures. The IRS also considers the amount of time and energy devoted to legislative matters regardless of cost. Volunteer lobbying efforts on behalf of the church count toward lobbying limits.

Example: a church social action committee wishes to promote a letter endorsing specific legislation (such as the Clean Energy Jobs Act). This activity is lobbying, but because the time spent is not a substantial part of the church’s overall activities, it is permitted without jeopardizing the church’s tax-exempt status.
HIVE HAPPENINGS - "Alive and Buzzing"
Last spring two hives, each with 3000-5000 bees, were introduced at DuBois Center. They were blessed by Conference Minister Rev. Shana Johnson; then the bees were sent on their way to enjoy the many wildflowers that were in full bloom and... multiply. The hives are located in the Deer Run area of camp, close to a water supply and a variety of flowering plant species. John Pawloski, our ISC volunteer beekeeper, has kept a close eye on these newest campers over the last nine months. Winter is always a critical time for bees, especially the first winter. John reports, "...the bees are still alive and buzzing. Thankfully, the mite population that usually raises its ugly head in fall and winter appears to be under control. The bees have been enjoying their own honey, but my protege Julie Kies and I fed them some vitamin water and some powdered sugar (which also helps with mite control). If you walk by the hives, they are much more subdued and quiet. Their population wanes as the drones are kicked out and the queen holds off laying new brood until springtime (fewer mouths to feed)." The photos are from earlier this month. If you are interested learning more about or getting involved with our bees or other Green DuBois projects, send a note to greendubois@aol.com.

BLOCK PARTY!
Sunday, April 26
We're having a Block Party in the Rustic Village and middle and high school youth groups are invited! Join DuBois Center staff and volunteers for an afternoon of fun, food, games, contests and music. One of the best parts - IT'S FREE! We'll roast hot dogs and make s'mores, meet some of the horses, and explore the Rustic Village. Whether you are a DuBois Center camper or not, you're invited! Load up right after church, grab some lunch, and head to camp. We'll be on the move from 1-4 pm, but arrive when you can. Youth must be accompanied by adult chaperones or parents. RSVP by Monday, April 20 - we need to stock the coolers and send you permission forms. For more information, check out this flyer. To RSVP contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

WRANGLE & RIDE
Saturday, April 4
Join our equestrian team on Saturday, April 4 from 9am - 5pm for a full day of fun with the DuBois Center herd! Designed for both beginner and more experienced riders, this is a horse-intensive day of grooming, tacking, riding, instruction and other horse-related activities. Beginners will be introduced to basic skills, while experienced riders work on more advanced options. The cost for this event is $65 with lunch included. Online Registration opens February 5. Click here for more information or to register by mail. Questions? Contact us at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or 618-787-2202.

FATHER-SON RETREAT
April 24-26
Fathers, Grandfathers and Uncles - SAVE THE DATE and plan now to bring your sons, grandsons, nephews or another significant young man in your life to DuBois Center for a weekend of quality guy time! Fish, hike, canoe or just hang out together. Make cool crafts, share in vespers and work on your archery skills. Horseback riding is available for an additional fee. Lodging is in heated cottages and Hickory Lodge. The weekend is geared for those age 5 and older, and families participate together. Online Registration opens February 5. Click here for more information or to register by mail. Questions? Contact us at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

CAMP BROCHURES
Place Your Order NOW!
At DuBois Center, we are busy planning for Summer Camp 2020! Right now we are putting together our order for brochures. This year we are working especially hard to optimize our promotion, and you can help! Please let us know how many brochures you would like for your CHURCH. We would be happy to send one for every child in Sunday School! Or if stacks in the narthex and church office work best in your setting - great! Just let us know how many are needed. Please send your request to Julie at register@DuBoisCenter.org or call 618-357-1809. FYI - We will mail brochures directly to all 2018 and 2019 campers and retreat participants.
LENTEN WORK DAY - April 4 - 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, get a little dirty and help spruce up the grounds. Projects vary depending on the weather and the skills of the workers - carpentry, cleaning and painting are on the list. A hearty lunch is provided. Check out this Service Saturday flyer for more information. RSVP to DuBois Center by Monday, March 30, at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. If this date doesn't work with your schedule, call or email to set up a different day for your group!

DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) money 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!

The next LIFE Certificate Course will be on February 8, presented by Dr. Jill Baker on Exploring the United Church of Christ: History and Polity of the UCC. This course will explore the history and polity (structure and governance) of the United Church of Christ, seeking to provide an understanding of the organization, ministries, and mission commitments of the UCC in the past, and looking to the future on how the denomination's theological trajectories may continue to develop. This class is intended for people seeking licensing, dual standing or privilege of call. It is also appropriate for anyone wanting to learn more about the United Church of Christ who have no need for ministerial authorization. This LIFE course is a single day format. It will count as one credit in the LIFE program.

Recommended Reading, That We May All (Finally!) be One, by Mary Susan Gast, Pilgrim Press, 2016. Available in the Eden Bookstore.

Dr. Jill Baker is the Moderator of the IL South Conference and an ONA Consultant for the Illinois South Conference UCC, and a trainer in the Building an Inclusive Church curriculum.
To register, contact Jill Schantz at jschantz@eden.edu or by calling 314-918-2554.

Memory Cafe to be held monthly at Senior Services Plus, Inc., 2603 N Rodgers Ave, Alton on 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.

Memory Cafe, A Winter Wonderland, will be held at the Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main St., Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 on the second Thursday of every month 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 every month 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...

Several choirs from Region 2 of Illinois South Conference are joining together to present the Region 2 Choral Festival on Sunday, February 9 at Waterloo St. Paul UCC at 3 pm. The church's address is 200 N. Main St., Waterloo, IL 62298. Some of the choirs will perform separately and then join together for a mass choir performance. There is no charge to attend. An offering will be taken and the proceeds given to
All are welcome to attend to hear the marvelous music from joined voices. Please note that I-255 will be closed between I-55 and I-64 after February 2.

**DISHES, DISHES, DISHES……**The *Women's Guild of St. John's UCC at Midway*, has a large amount of good quality serving dishes they would like to give away. The dishes are white with a small gray border, are dishwasher safe, very sturdy, and in perfect condition. These dishes are excellent for a church kitchen or restaurant use, and are available to any church, small business, or person that could use them. Listed below are the number of specific dishes that are available.

Note: It is not necessary to take all the dishes, only what is desired.
- Small Dessert Bowls = 80
- Coffee Cups = 58
- Saucers = 101
- Dessert Plates = 100
- Dinner Plates = 130

The dishes are free, but donations would be accepted. Please call the church office for details at **618-377-9288**, and leave a message for Nancy Goodson, President of the Women's Guild.

**National Youth Event (NYE) Registration Opens February 1**
NYE is a spirited quadrennial event centered on faith, leadership, service, and social justice first inaugurated in 1980. It is celebrated as the largest denominational gathering for the United Church of Christ, with an expected attendance of 2,500.

The registration for National Youth Event is $375 per person, which includes event registration, housing and on-campus meals. Additional items may be purchased at the time of registration, including the 2020 NYE t-shirt and/or sweatpants. Other swag items may be available as well.

There are many gifted speakers at NYE. Click [here](#) to see them and read more about them.

Get ready to experience NYE with your youth.

**GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOMS**
As of January 1, 2020, all public spaces will be prohibited from having signs outside of one-person public restrooms which designate the bathroom as gender specific. This means all one-person bathrooms in public spaces (including churches and camps) must be labeled as gender neutral. (Bathrooms with multiple stalls can still be designated gender specific.)

The language of the bill, which was unanimously approved in the Senate and by a 109-5 vote in the House in the spring of 2019, reads, "every single-occupancy restroom in a place of public accommodation or public building shall be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time or for family or assisted use."

In the Conference, we have installed single occupancy restrooms at the Conference office and at DuBois Center.

Above is the picture of the signs we are using which also include Braille, making the signs ADA compliant as well.

We strongly encourage churches to follow our lead. If you want information on how to get the signs we have purchased for our Conference public spaces, please contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org.

**It's Time to Update Your Church's Records with UCC**
Please decide who is responsible for this at your church. If it is not in your job description, please forward to the person responsible. Don't assume someone else will be doing it. If you choose not to enter the information online, just fill out the attached Yearbook Data Entry Worksheet at the end of the Church Instructions and send it to me. I will be happy to do it for you.

Church Instructions
2018-2019 Data from Last Year's Report
Data Hub opened January 8 and will remain open until midnight on March 4, 2020. See the Instructions for how-to. Thanks.

Lynnette Schuepbach lschuepbach@iscucc.org.

**Who Leads Your Church?** The Illinois South Conference is the association of churches which is here to help you find information and resources for all of the areas of its members’ churches. In order to get this information to the right leaders of your church, we need to update our information as to your leadership. Here is a form we would like you to fill out after your yearly elections so that we will send financial information to Treasurers and music information to your musicians, etc. Please help us to keep current and funnel information to the right people. We are sending as an excel file and a pdf. Both are fill-able on your computer or can be printed to write the information in. 2020 Church Leaders [excel](#) [pdf](#)
Attention Pastors: You are invited to attend *Introduction to A Better Way of Helping; Building Bridges Out of Poverty* on March 14 from 9 am - noon at Zion UCC, 412 N 5th St, Burlington, IA.

All people deserve a chance to live sustainable lives. Sustainable lives lead to sustainable communities. This workshop will present an overview of how the Bridges Out of Poverty research is being implemented in the Building Bridges Initiative in Southeast Iowa and the successes being celebrated thus far. Poverty is sometimes thought of as a shortage of financial resources. Research by Ruby Payne, PhD suggests there are nine categories of resources which impact poverty. This workshop will introduce the nine categories of resources needed for sustainable living and overview how the Building Bridges Initiative helps families strengthen those resources.

If you did not grow up in poverty, you may be unaware of the "hidden rules" that govern many aspects of life for the poor. This workshop will help you see and understand the hidden rules and how they are different for poor, middle class, and wealthy communities.

This workshop will help Churches redesign programs to better serve the people you work with and increase the likelihood of families moving from welfare to sustainable lifestyles. To register, please call Zion UCC at 319-752-2305.

---

Ministers Also Deserve a Plate: Addressing the Economic Challenges Facing Ministers

Don’t miss this Bracke Lecture on Friday, February 7 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm at Eden Theological Seminary Wehrli Chapel

Rising theological education costs, reductions in scholarship funding, and lower-than-average pastoral salaries are just some of the factors leading to financial challenges among ministers today. Leading a church and managing educational debt along with other personal financial obligations can be overwhelming for ministers. In 2016, Eden Seminary in partnership with the Association of Theological Schools and the Lilly Endowment began a three-year project to help students reduce their educational debt through the Economics Challenges Facing Future Ministers (ECFFM) Initiative. Around the same time, the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ (PBUCC) launched the Ministers’ Financial Vitality Initiative (MFVI), intended to increase and improve financial wellness among UCC authorized ministers.

Although these combined efforts have been successful, it has become apparent that economic justice and financial vitality conversations with authorized ministers must occur earlier in their experience to be effective. As a result, the PBUCC and Eden are partnering in their efforts to connect some of this information to current students to plant a seed in their financial well-being.

---

**Region 2**

New Hanover Zoar UCC presents A Night at The Races, an action packed, heart pounding, videotaped horse racing event, on Sat, Feb 8 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Doors Open at 6 pm and the first race at 7 pm. Silent Auction. Bring your own food and drinks. All proceeds go to New Hanover Zoar UCC. Adults $10. Must be 18 to place bets. For more info contact Cheri Angel at 618-420-9687.

**Region 5**

St. Jacob UCC will sponsor the Strawberry Festival on Sunday, May 17 from 10 am - 3 pm at Town Park in St. Jacob. Music, crafts, jump houses, entertainment for kids. Hot dogs, brats, pork burgers, strawberry desserts. Berry Bike Ride sign up here.

**Region 8**

Trenton St. John UCC will hold its 4th annual Drive-thru Chili & Vegetable Beef Soup Dinner on Sat, Feb 1 from 11 am until 3 pm (or until chili & soup are gone). Chili and vegetable beef soup will be available in quart containers for $5 per quart. Call 618-224-9828 after 11 am to preorder for pickup. Drive-thru located in alley behind the church.

**Region 7**

Okawville St. Peter’s UCC will hold its Wurst Markt on Sun, Feb 9 in their educational building from 3 pm - 7 pm. All you can eat pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, pie or dessert and drink. Adults $11; Children 5 - 12 years $5; Children 5 and under No Charge. All carry outs $11. Place meat/sausage orders by Feb 4 to 618-243-5354.

**Region 9**

Belleville Concordia UCC will hold its Youth Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sat, Feb 29 at 7600 IL Rte 163 in Bellville from 7 am - 10 am. There will be two kinds of pancakes - Buttermilk & Oatmeal. Adults $8; Children 5 - 12 years $5; and Children under 5 No Charge.