Call to Be a Voice for Those Who Are Voiceless

As I mentioned last week, 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 summon 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. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister of the Minnesota Conference, wrote this article and sent it out to the Conference she served on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. I feel honored to call Shari a colleague and friend. In the beginning of the article she lifts up King's powerful words when he said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." For Shari, these are not words which make a nice reference quote. These are words she deeply believes, words which are the core of her ministry, and words that bring her a sense of call to be a voice for those who find themselves voiceless.

I pray her words will challenge and inspire your own sense of call to stand up and speak up in the face of injustice. I pray we in the Church will see and focus on the unfinished work which lies ahead of us of working for a Just World for All.

Blessings,
Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

History's Legacies & Our Unfinished Work

Written by Reverend Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister, Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

- Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail

At the Memorial for Peace & Justice

Two months ago, I had the humbling opportunity to visit the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. They are the creation of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), an organization founded by human rights attorney Bryan Stevenson, author of "Just Mercy." Stevenson and EJI have won reversals, relief, or release for over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row.

The museum chronicles in stunning visual detail the legacy of racial terrorism in the United States: slavery, Jim Crow, and the present-day reality of mass incarceration. The memorial - often referred to as "the lynching memorial" - is a haunting physical reminder of the 4400 African American men, women, and children who were lynched by white mobs between 1877 and 1950. At the center of the memorial site are over 800 steel monuments, each of them representing a county in the U.S. where a racial terror lynching took place, engraved with the names of those murdered. Among them is one monument remembering Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, and Isaac McGhie, three young black men lynched in Duluth, Minnesota in June of 1920.

As I turned a corner in the museum to view an exhibit of signs displayed by businesses and communities during the Jim Crow era, one in particular stopped me in my tracks. It read: "No Jews. No Dogs. No Blacks." I was horrified by the absurdity of it, the shocking denial of human dignity and worth it communicated. It captured the appalling ugliness of white supremacy, how it views persons of color or ethnic difference as less than human, nothing more than an unloved animal easily ignored.

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 Feb 9-15, 2020
Churches & Pastors
- Marion Zion UCC, Rev. John (Sara) Holst
The inherent dignity and worth of each Created being lies at the heart of our faith. We read in our holy scriptures that we are created in the sacred image of God, and that acknowledgement is meant to shape our interactions with one another, compelling respect, love, and mercy. Yet, too often we have forgotten this basic premise of our faith. In fact, history confronts us with the bitter truth that the Church and we who comprise it have often been willing vehicles of white supremacy.

In a recent interview in The Christian Post, Bryan Stevenson said: “During the time of slavery, we as a Church allowed people to be trafficked and abused and mistreated. We created this narrative of racial difference where we said that black people aren’t as good as white people. Too many people of faith were silent after the Civil War. We had a hundred years of terrorism where black people were lynched, pulled out of their homes, beaten, brutalized, drowned, murdered, tortured, sometimes within yards of churches and places of worship, and no one said anything. We had a horrific era of legal segregation, racial apartheid, and the church was largely silent during that period. The Church must reckon with its history of inaction and strive to work with communities that are struggling so much to recover from the extreme punishment that we’ve imposed over the last half-century.”

On this day that remembers the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are right to honor Dr. King’s prophetic and brave leadership in the struggle for Civil Rights, a fight for which he ultimately gave his life. But we should be reminded that the struggle for true racial equality is yet unfinished. Nearly every day our news provides fresh, head-shaking evidence that white supremacy is still alive among us. We should all be appalled by it. We in the Church must be part of repairing the trauma and heartache of so many who have suffered under the weight of racism for centuries and who still endure its horrors. We must not repeat the mistakes of our past.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: “We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”

We honor the memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. best by confronting with clear eyes the reality of racism and white supremacy still today and continuing his work to dismantle it. As Church, it is every bit our work to take up a new legacy of love waiting to be built.

Asset Based Leadership
with Dr. Peter Dry will be held on Tuesday February 18 from 7:30 - 9:00 am. Learn how you can start with assets, strengthen teams, and innovate and accelerate organizational success.

Dr. Peter Dry has a doctorate in educational leadership and is a certified Gallup Clifton Strengths coach and Appreciative Inquiry facilitator. He has leadership experience in six countries and has mentored leaders across sectors helping them use their strengths effectively. Peter provides practical and effective strengths-based solutions to culture building, team development, leadership and the mindset required to develop an outstanding organization that is future-ready. Peter spent time in the corporate world advising on leadership, innovation and the creation of learning communities at BMW Financial Services. He helped found an international school in Norway, has consulted to teams and organizations in Australia, America, and South Africa and has been a regular presenter at conferences across the world. He and his wife, Samantha, have worked in schools on five different continents. They founded a non-profit in 2007 called The Simunye Project and have taken over 500 young adults on a yearly 18-day trip to South Africa to work with communities in need.

- Marissa Friedens UCC, Pastor Brett (Carolyn) Palmer
- Rev. Dr. Richard and Johann Ellerbrake, Lebanon, IL

People with Life Concerns
- Pray for the 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. Rev. Peebles serves as the Pastor of Central City Zion UCC.
- 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 Rev. 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
Peter's recent role has been the dean of innovation and strategy leading significant cultural and programmatic change across the organization. Register here.

**Two Important Surveys from UCC**

**Yearbook Supplemental Survey**
A few of you have said that the link to the Yearbook's Supplemental Survey wasn't working. You can use this link if you are entering your church's data. It is also available on the Data Hub home page for churches as well as in the Church Instructions that was emailed to you earlier this year. If you need a copy of the Supplemental Survey, beyond what is provided in the Data Entry Guide, click here.

**Ecumenical Study from Faith Communities Today (FACT)**
The UCC has begun an ecumenical study this month: FACT. This is a project that is done every five years and is a broad survey encompassing all faith communities across the United States. Please visit here for more details and to see some of the reports that came out of the 2015 study.

**Day of Discipleship**

**Early-Bird Discount Deadline - Feb 14**

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.

**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.

**The Insurance Board presents a webinar on Medical Marijuana in the Workplace on Wed, Feb 19 at 1 pm CST.** More Americans are using medical marijuana therapeutically than ever before. As the laws surrounding medical marijuana continue to evolve, there are proactive steps you can take now to protect your church, business, or nonprofit. The event will be live at the City Club in Cleveland, Ohio. If you are in the area, you can attend the live event, or you can register to view the free live webcast. For more information click here.
Volunteer in Disaster Recovery - Compassion in Action

Your service as a UCC Disaster Recovery Volunteer helps people rebuild their physical homes and is an act of presence that demonstrates the commitment to walk beside people as they seek to rebuild their lives. Together, we can be the body of Christ in the world. UCC Disaster Ministries has arranged the following opportunities for mission groups to help homeowners in the intermediate and long-term recovery process. Serve as a group or as an individual for week-long periods.

Disaster Sites Accepting Volunteers

**NEW! Eastern North Carolina (Dorian, Florence and Matthew)**

Volunteers are now being accepted to repair and rebuild homes in Eastern North Carolina. Hurricanes Dorian (2019), Florence (2018), and Matthew (2016) caused severe flooding and wind damage. There are 15 centers accepting volunteers of all skill levels to help repair homes affected by natural disasters. For more information, click [here](#).

**Florida Panhandle (Hurricane Michael)**

Volunteers are being recruited now to help repair and rebuild homes in the Florida Panhandle. Hurricane Michael caused extensive damage when it made landfall there as a Category 4 storm in October 2018. The storm's heavy rain, high winds, and extreme storm surges caused massive destruction in its path and spawned numerous tornadoes. Work is in Bay and Washington counties, which suffered significant home, crop and tree damage. The work is a variety. Roofing is a number one priority. All skill levels of volunteers are accepted. Groups are matched up with work that is suitable to their talents. For more information, click [here](#).

**Puerto Rico (Hurricanes Irma and Maria)**

Work may include repairing cement roofs, light carpentry, metal and wood roofing repair, and painting interior ceilings and walls. Most of the work will be done in the Humacao city area, the hardest hit area in Puerto Rico. For more information, click [here](#).

**Volusia County, Florida (Hurricanes Irma & Matthew)**

Repair/Rebuild homes. Roofing, gutting interiors, replacing insulation, siding, drywall repair and painting, flooring and other interior work as needed. For more information, click [here](#).

Note: Our work in Port Arthur, Texas to rehab 17 homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey has been completed. Read [more](#).

See all [opportunities](#). Learn more on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). See a [VIDEO](#).

Will you be ISC’s Valentine?

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose ISC as your charity of choice, AmazonSmile donates to Illinois South Conference Of The United Church Of Christ at no cost to you! Think of ISC as you make your Valentine purchases for your loved ones and contribute to ISC at the same time.

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**BIG SPRING MAILING**

Check your mailbox or... from the stack on the counter in the church office. The Big Spring Mailing was posted on January 25 and many received it early last week. It includes flyers for spring events, ideas for promoting summer camp, information about summer jobs, a summer camp poster and more!

If you would like additional copies of any of these pieces, there are two easy options. This [link](#) will take you to the “Info for Churches” page of our website. PDFs of all the spring mailing documents can be found there. Or contact us by [email](mailto:info@ilsouth.org) or 618-787-2202.

**Church Alert:** In an effort to be better stewards, we did not create a spring brochure this year. But we still need to spread the word. Please help by sharing the link to our flyers and other materials on your website and in your e-newsletter. Also consider sharing DuBois Center through social media. All our links are easy to remember - [website](https://www.ilsouth.org), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com). If you are Facebook savvy, please "share" our posts and ensure your church members are in the know. Encourage members to “like” and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.
WANTED: TALENT SCOUTS
There are talented individuals in each of our congregations and communities who could be an asset to our summer ministry at DuBois Center. There are a variety of ways to be involved - full summer paid positions and shorter-term volunteer positions. We are in search of caring, hard-working individuals who enjoy the outdoors, love to have fun, and can embrace their silly side. They must have a passion for working with young people and a heart for ministry and service. Please look around! Who might be a good fit for these ministry opportunities?
If someone comes to mind, encourage them to consider joining our team. Then pass on their contact info to dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202, or fill in the details on this form and return it to DuBois Center.

VOLUNTEERS are the HEART
Volunteers are the heart of strong and healthy outdoor ministry programs. At DuBois Center, volunteers serve throughout the year on committees and teams, at the barn, in the office, on work projects, as retreat leaders and fund raisers. During the summer, there are a variety of ways to be involved and make a difference in the lives of the young people we serve. Join us for a few hours on a Sunday afternoon, a couple days during the week or a full session of camp. Volunteers work hand in hand with paid summer staff to provide our fun, engaging and faith-filled program. For more information contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Volunteer applications are available online.
Summer Opportunities Include:
- Barn Helper
- Cabin Counselor
- Chaplain
- Nurse
- Photographer
- Resource / Activity Specialist
- Sunday Welcome Team

Grandparents & CAMP BROCHURES
Place Your Order NOW!
We are working to optimize our summer camp 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 one for every family! If stacks in the narthex and church office work best in your setting - great! Just let us know how many you need.
And remember GRANDPARENTS! Many send their grandchildren to camp, so even if you don't have lots of young people in your congregation, we're guessing you do have grandparents. 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.

SNEAK PEEK - SUMMER CAMP 2020
Just 124 days and counting till the first day of summer camp at DuBois Center! Registration opens February 15, so use this schedule to begin planning your summer now! Watch for our brochure later this month and stay up to date by checking our Facebook page regularly. Questions? Contact us by email or 618-787-2202.

UPCOMING EVENTS at DuBois Center
There is plenty of action throughout the year at DuBois Center. Mark your calendars and make plans now to join us. Please spread the word to family, friends and your entire church family. Questions? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15-16</td>
<td>Sat-Sun ISC Festival of Faith (middle school)</td>
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<td>Feb 21-22</td>
<td>Fri-Sat ISC MID (members in discernment) Retreat</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Sat Green DuBois Stewardship Day</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Fri Star Party</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>Wed Green DuBois Meeting at DBC</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Sat Service Saturday Wrangle &amp; Ride</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Wed First Day of Nature's Classroom</td>
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<td>April 24-26</td>
<td>Fri-Sun Father-Son Retreat</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Sun Block Party &amp; Open House</td>
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<td>May 1-2</td>
<td>Fri-Sat Nature Photography Retreat</td>
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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!

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**

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.

Surviving Caregiving Conference will be held on April 4 from 9:30 am - 3:00 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; Cindy and Christina Hardin-Weis, speaking on Learning Proper Techniques for Using Medical Equipment; and Gail Shaw and Chris Fulton, speaking on Dementia Resources & Coping - Helping You Age Well, Your Way!. 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. 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.
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.

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 OCWM. 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.

- 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 Opened February 1**

NYE is a spirited quadrennial event centered on faith, leadership, service, and social justice, which was 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 Supplemental Survey

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

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**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.

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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.
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<td><strong>New Hanover Zoar UCC presents A Night at The Races</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
<td><strong>Troy Friedens UCC will hold its 8th Annual Sausage Supper on Sun, March 8 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm. Buffet Menu Includes: grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes &amp; gravy, applesauce, coffee, tea and dessert. Call 618-667-6535 for curbside service &amp; pre-orders. Adults: $10; Children 5 to 10 years - $5; Children 4 years &amp; under free; Carry-outs and curb service - $10.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staunton St. Paul UCC presents Trivia Night on Sat, March 14 from 6 pm - 10 pm at Concordia Hall in Staunton. Trivia, Games, Silent Auction, 50/50 Drawing and more! Doors open at 6. Play begins at 6:30 pm. $15 per person for teams of 8-10 people. Bring your own snacks. All alcohol must be purchased at Concordia. All proceeds go to St. Paul UCC ministries. Register by [email] or call the church office at 618-635-2386.</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>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].</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Belleville Concordia UCC will hold its Youth Pancake &amp; Sausage Breakfast on Sat, Feb 29 at 7600 IL Rte 163 in Belleville from 7 am - 10 am. There will be two kinds of pancakes - Buttermilk &amp; Oatmeal. Adults $8; Children 5 - 12 years $5; and Children under 5 No Charge.</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>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.</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>New Baden Zion UCC will hold its Chili Dinner on Wed, Feb 12 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Eat in or carry out. No drive thru. Menu includes hot and mild chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, corn bread, hot dogs, salads, desserts &amp; beverages. Adults &amp; Carry outs $9; Children 5 - 12 years $4; Children 4 &amp; under Free (eat in only). Bulk Chili $5/pint; $10/half gallon; $20/gallon. Please bring your own container.</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>New Baden Zion UCC will hold Fish Dinners on Wed, Feb 26, Fri, March 20 and Fri, April 10 from 4 pm - 6:30 pm. Dinner includes cod tail or catfish, mac &amp; cheese, fries or chips, hush puppies, cole slaw and dessert. Adults $10; Children $5.</strong></td>
<td><strong>St. Peter UCC in Red Bud will hold a Winter BBQ, all you can eat buffet style on Sunday, Feb. 23 beginning at 11 am. Ribs, pork steaks, pork roast, chicken and all the sides.</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lenten Fish Fries at St. Peter UCC in Red Bud will be held on Fri, March 20 and Fri, April 3.</strong></td>
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