My Story
For the last couple of weeks, I have been 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.

My motivation in doing this was twofold:
1) I thought it would be meaningful for you to hear from different voices (other than mine) about our shared struggle to talk about and to face the reality of the deep racial divide in our world, our country, our communities and even our churches.
2) I want to invite you into a conversation. Perhaps it will be just a conversation with yourself which is a good place to begin. Yet, in order to enact true change, we must be willing to enter into honest, sometimes difficult, conversations with each other about the truth of the situation. Quoting Edith Guffey's article, which was in our last week's Weekly Connection, "the very act of taking the risk to tell our stories to each other matters."

Imagine the transformation which would be possible in our churches if we were willing to take the risk and tell our stories. In many ways, I believe this is what confession is all about. It is being honest with ourselves before God and one another. Reflecting on those areas in which we struggle. Naming our stumbling blocks, our missteps and our failures. Then allowing the power of God's grace to reclaim us, redeem us and redirect us toward restored relationships.

So, I invite you to hear a bit of my story, and in turn, I challenge you as churches to begin to share your own stories with each other--because it matters. It is a confessional way of clearing the path for new learnings, new insights, and new growth.

Recently, I saw a map that offered an overview of racial disparity in the U.S. by color coding the best to worst states for Black Americans, based on lack of education, employment opportunities, poverty, violence and unequal incarceration rates. I was discouraged and ashamed that my home state, Illinois, leaned strongly to the side of being one of the worst offenders. Yet as I reflected, I knew why. Here is what I knew from my own experience.

I grew up in central Illinois. In my town, my neighborhood, my church and my school, there were very few persons of color. As a child, I overheard adults use racial slurs, make racist comments and jokes, and make disparaging comments about persons on television with darker skin and different features than mine.

By the time I was in middle school, I knew one of my best friends, who happened to be a black boy, was a friendship which would not be readily accepted by all (even some in my family).

When I was in high school, I knew members of my extended family (especially my uncles and grandparents on both sides) would not be accepting of me dating someone outside of my race. I knew what my maternal grandmother meant by "Birds of a feather flock together," and I cringed when my paternal grandmother used the word "colored."

I also understood from my parents talking openly about how they were embarrassed by the opinions and viewpoints of their relatives, that they struggled with the ways they were raised.
I understood that the conversations they had with me, my brother and sister about how all people were children of God and how sinful it was to discriminate against anyone of a different skin color, religion or sexual orientation were probably not conversations other youth in my church were having at home.

When I was in college, I knew it felt risky to bring home my college roommate, a young woman of very dark skin and Jamaican roots, for Thanksgiving to eat with my extended family, worship at my church and shop in the stores of my community.

When I was serving in my first church, after performing a wedding for a white woman to a Filipino man and receiving death threats from a white supremacist leader and his organization, my women in a bible study I led whispered odd comments like, "Well, what did she think was going to happen after marrying them?" and "She just couldn't leave well enough alone."

As a pastor, I understood when my husband's side of the family visited, I would feel ashamed as my sisters-in-law (white), my brothers-in-law (men of color), nieces and nephews (mixed race) would receive disgusted looks and would not receive the warm welcome that my side of the family would.

I understand there are things especially my black and Hispanic nephews will face that my white nephew never will. Just as there are things my black and Hispanic nieces will face that my white girls never will. I understand this is what is meant by white privilege.

Currently, I understand when my oldest daughter and her Hispanic boyfriend come to visit, there are places we will go where they will receive stares and will not be treated as well as other places we go.

But more importantly, I understand that all of these experiences, all of the overt and covert forms of racism I have been exposed to have had a profound effect on me--in some good ways and in some very bad and destructive ways. Out of all of these experiences and understandings, there are racist thoughts and opinions, which stick to me in ways that grieve my soul. Although I would prefer to deny it and claim a highly evolved sense of being, I must confess there are residual forms of racism in me, which I battle against. I do not know how to love the other as fully as Christ did and to which he calls us.

I am still a work in progress. However, the good news is God has not given up on me. God's call to follow in the steps of his Son, my Savior, has a grip on me and will not let me go. I am compelled each day, through the relenting presence of the Divine, to bring my undesirable traits to the light so that the immeasurable grace of God may transform them.

Yes, I am still a work in progress. There is so much more work, change and transformation to be done within me, so I might have a chance to effect change and transformation in the world. This is my story. What is yours?

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

St. Paul UCC in Columbia, IL recent held an event where the "price" of admission was diapers for Kindercottage. Rev. Bob Goddard and Sam delivered the diapers along with a financial contribution. Kindercottage is ever grateful!

Pictured from L to R: Brenda Crisp, Director of Uni-Pres Kindercottage; Rev. Bob Goddard, Pastor, and Sam, a member of Columbia St. Paul UCC.

Retired Pastors
- Revs. Janis Dashner and Bob Goddard, O'Fallon, IL

People with Life Concerns
- Please keep Rev. David Beebe in your prayers as he recovers from surgery and 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.
- 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.

UCC Disaster Ministries Sends Grants to Australia, Philippines, Syria

UCC Disaster Ministries recently granted $5,000 for fire survivors in Australia, $10,000 for typhoon and earthquake survivors in the Philippines and $12,500 for winterization items for Syrians struggling to survive prolonged war, massive displacement and dire economic conditions.

Here are details:
Massive forest fires since September 2019 have devastated large areas of Tasmania, Victoria, and New South Wales, Australia. UCC Disaster Ministries has contributed $5,000 each to the National Disaster Relief Fund of the Uniting Church of Australia and to Global Ministries Partners (Churches of Christ) in Australia for their support to the recovery of people in need as a result of this disaster. United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) is providing relief in the wake of two recent disasters. Typhoon Tisoy (Kammuri) in October and four earthquakes (6.4, 6.3, 6.6, and 6.5 magnitude) that hit Mindanao in November. UCC Disaster Ministries is sending $10K, to be split between the two disasters for such aid as packages of relief goods, food, medicine, toiletries, flashlights, tarps and mosquito nets.

Summer is hot in Syria but winter is harsh, with large amounts of snow and subfreezing temperatures. Prolonged war, massive displacement, dire economic conditions, high unemployment and a drastic slump in purchasing power have stripped people of their ability to cope. With a $12,500 grant, UCC Disaster Ministries is helping the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches support about 1,200 vulnerable families (about 6,000 individuals) with critically needed blankets and electric heaters, plus cash subsidies for heating fuel or winter clothing.

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**Zion United Church of Christ St. Joe - Waterloo**

and

**Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ**

Invite you to attend the

Installation of

**Rev. Patrick Poole**

on

**Sunday, March 8, 2020**

3:00 pm

Zion United Church of Christ St. Joe

4202 Kaskaskia Rd

Waterloo IL 62298

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**Hurry! Hurry! - Registration for Day of Discipleship**

**Workshop Opportunities**

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, Hoyleton 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. Michael Cassady, Pastor of Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC.*

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.

1 & 2 F  **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.

1 & 2 G  **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
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.

**Did you know...**
*by Richard Ellerbrake for the Justice & Mission Team*
Illinois law requires at least 25% of the state’s energy come from renewable sources, like wind and solar, by 2025?

What’s the impact on Illinois South congregations, members and families? The impact is huge! Especially if you live or work near coalmines or power plants.

A wave of closures has hit these two related industries with at least 525 jobs lost. Closed within the last four months: Peabody Coal's Wildcat Hills Mine near Harrisburg, and Vistra Energy’s coal-fired power plants in Canton, Coffeen, Havana, and Hennepin.

Coal consumption has peaked. Twenty years from now most of the Illinois coal industry will be gone, but impact from power plant closures, mine closures and job losses has already started.

"Limiting harm from this transition -and benefiting from emerging economic opportunities-will require leadership, planning and support from federal, state and local officials. And there are many real benefits, including long-term, non-agricultural income for farmers and counties from renewable power projects, lower electricity costs for individuals and businesses, economic activity from a regional buildout of renewables, improved power-grid resilience and construction and engineering jobs. Policymakers and communities who embrace this transition will be in the best position to gain a long-term advantage from these changes, and better able to offer lasting improvements that will be beneficial for everyone." -The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis

To increase gain and lessen damage in the face of major economic, social and environmental issues affecting us all, your Illinois South Conference Justice and Mission Team will study, pass on information, and suggest faith-based opportunities to congregations and members.

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**WORKING AT CAMP IS A REAL JOB!**
There is something to be learned from every job, but there are more resume-building skills and practical work experience packed into one summer at camp than with almost any other job! Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Leadership and Planning are just some of the critical skills that come to mind. Working at summer camp IS a real job, but also a great opportunity to share your faith, 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 assistants/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.

Here's a Thought:
Know someone who might make a great camp leader? Please forward this article to them or use this form to recommend them.
It's Time to Start
PROMOTING SUMMER CAMP!

Included in our January Big Spring Mailing to churches were helpful hints and fun ideas for promoting summer camp at DuBois Center. Many have been field-tested in our local churches! Schedule a Camp Sunday. Roast s'mores or hot dogs for coffee hour one morning. Attend the Block Party - it's FREE! Use bulletin inserts. Have a poster contest. Can't find that Big Spring Mailing or need the documents in PDF format? Check out the Info for Churches page on our website for all the mailing pieces or click on the links below.

Promote Your Camp
Camp Schedule
Bulletin Insert - Summer Camp & Service Sat.
Bulletin Insert - Block Party & Volunteers

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.

BLOCK PARTY! - Sunday, April 26

What's a Block Party? A party in our neighborhood on our "street." Who's invited? Middle & high school youth groups (and individuals) with their adult chaperones or parents. Join DuBois Center staff and volunteers for an afternoon of fun, games, music and snacks. 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. RSVP by Monday, April 20 - we need to stock the coolers and send permission forms. For more information check out this flyer, to RSVP contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

FATHER-SON RETREAT - April 24-26

Fathers, Grandfathers and Uncles - bring your sons, grandsons, nephews or other significant young men 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 is now open. Space is limited, so register early. Click here for more information or to register by mail. Questions? Contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

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

LIFE at Eden - March 14, 2020
Certificate Course: What is the Church? Rev. Shana Johnson

This course will be a journey in exploring the multifaceted ways we speak of and imagine what it means to be the Church. We will not only reflect on the historical roots and form of Church, but the emerging forms of being and becoming authentic communities of disciples invested in transformative action. Participants will also be invited, challenged, and nudged to consider how the Spirit is summoning them to be a part of the continuing creation of the Church, the living manifestation of Christ’ presence in the world.
Rev. Shana Johnson is the Conference Minister of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

**Elective Course: Spiritual Formation: Spiritual Writing with Dr. Bill Tucker**

Flannery O'Connor said that anyone who survived childhood has enough material to write for the rest of his or her life. [Bird by Bird, Anne Lamott, p. 4]. What speaks to you and to others about your spiritual development, about your beliefs, your commentary on scripture, your prayers and reflections? We will attempt and share a variety of genres and begin a small portfolio of writing, both personal and professional. All sharing of writing is voluntary.

Dr. William Tucker, Professor Emeritus Eastern Michigan University

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Contact Jill Schantz at jschantz@eden.edu or by calling 314-918-2554 FREE for Eden Students!

Click [here](#) for a flyer.

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Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, in conjunction with the Illinois South Conference, DuBois Center and Kindercottage, is proud to offer an informational session 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 one more date and location 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 25 at St. Peter's UCC, 106 W Church St, Okawville, IL  6:00 pm**

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**24 Hours at Eden - March 8 - 9, 2020**

Everyone faces challenges that are unique to their time. Whether you are preparing to launch a new career or enhance your skills and ability to lead, finding the perfect place to learn is an important step in your life’s journey

There is no better way to find out if Eden is right for you, than to walk in the shoes of an Eden student for 24 Hours.

- Attend a class

- Worship in chapel
- Ask Eden students your questions
- Meet faculty and staff
- Build your network
- Learn about our programs
- Self reflect and explore

Eden Seminary is committed to helping you grow your personal faith, develop critical thinking and practice, and sharpen your leadership skills for the sake of the church and the world. Take this opportunity to be our guest. We provide all housing and food.

Click [here](#) to register or [here](#) for a flyer.

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**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.

St. John's Community Care Presents Savvy Caregiver Training. The sessions provide tools to family members who are caring for an individual with dementia/memory loss who is living at home, either alone or with family. Each session will be comprised of six two-hour sessions. The classes will be held on Tuesdays, March 31 and April 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5 from 10 am - Noon at St. John UCC, 307 W Clay St, Collinsville in the West Conference Room. For more information or to register, call 618-344-5008.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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

Region 2
Columbia St. Paul UCC presents Sunday Dessert Meets Church & Society on Sunday, February 23 at 6:30 pm. Lisa Brennan will talk about her new book: The Auditorium in My Mind: Treasuring My Transgender Child. In January of 2018, Lisa started a new chapter of life, as her youngest child shared with the family that she is a transgender woman. After some adjustment, the Brennan family has found that when you treasure someone for who they are, it is magical and sacred. Lisa wrote a beginner's guidebook for family and friends, and to her surprise, it was widely shared, with churches, hospitals, and schools asking her to share her family's adventure of love and acceptance. This prompted Lisa to write a book about her family's journey. She hopes that it will spread some education and love into the world. No cost to attend or register. All are invited.

Region 5
Troy Friedens UCC will hold its Ash Wednesday Church Meal at 6 pm on Feb 26. Ash Wednesday Worship Service follows the meal at 7 pm with Rev. Janet Darmour-Paul conducting the Ash Wednesday Service.

Exhale Youth Group from Alhambra Salem UCC will hold Nertz & Euchre Tournament on Sat, March 7 at 6 pm. Friends and family are welcome. A supervised nursery will be available. Snacks, soda/water, baked goods available to purchase.

Troy Friedens UCC will hold its 8th Annual Sausage and Kraut Dinner on Sun, Mar 8 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm. Buffet Menu Includes: grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, applesauce, coffee, tea and dessert. Call 618-667-6535 for curbside service & pre-orders. Adults: $10; Children ages 6-12 $5; Children 5 and under Free; Child take-out $5. Curbside orders available. Contact 618-588-4155.

Region 8
Marissa Friedens UCC will host its annual Women’s Pre-Lenten Breakfast on Sat, Feb 22 at 8:30 am. Ladies in the area are invited to this service followed by a free breakfast. It is a wonderful way to start the Lenten journey. No cost to attend but RSVP a head count to the church at 618-295-2004.

New Baden Zion UCC will hold its Chicken Dinner on Sat, March 7 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, dressing, corn, green beans, slaw, bread, applesauce, desserts and beverages. Adults $10; Children ages 6-12 $5; Children 5 and under Free; Child take-out $5. Curbside orders available. Contact 618-588-4155.

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 & cheese, fries or chips, hush puppies, cole slaw and dessert. Adults $10; Children $5.

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, German potato salad, American potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, sweet and sour salad, desserts and drinks. Carry outs available. Country store. To purchase whole sides of ribs or whole pork butts, call Bob Schmoll at 618-980-1068.

Lenten Fish Fries at St. Peter UCC in Red Bud will be held on Fri, March 20 and Fri, April 3.

New Hanover Zoar UCC will hold its Spaghetti Dinner / Trivia Night on Fri, March 6 from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm for dinner and trivia begins at 7 pm. Ticket includes dinner and trivia. Adults $10 for tables of 8 players. Children 12 and under $5. They invite you to see their new Fellowship Hall. Contact Cathy Brandt for reservations at 618-939-4917. Bring infant care items for Kinder cottage.

Hecker Friedens UCC will hold its Homemade Soup/Chili & Pie Supper on Sat, March 28 from 4 pm - 7 pm. All are invited.

Hecker Friedens UCC will hold its Homemde Soup/Chili & Pie Supper on Sat, March 28 from 4 pm - 7 pm. All are invited.

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.

Troy Friedens UCC will hold its 15th Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Sun, March 15 from Noon - 2:00 pm. RSVP by calling 618-667-6535. Adults: $12; Children 12 & Under - $6; Carry-outs and curb service - $10.

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.

Freeburg St. Paul UCC will host its Quartertermania 2020 and Vendor Fair on Sun, March 15 at the Catholic War Veteran's Post 370 from 1 pm - 4 pm. Items from over 15 vendors will be auctioned off, and you could win for as little as 25 cents! Doors open at 12:30 pm and event starts promptly at 1 pm. Guatemala benefit

Marissa Friedens UCC will hold a Wurstmarkt on Sat, March 21 from 3 pm to 7 pm. All are welcome.

Region 9

Belleville St. Paul UCC Fine Arts Series presents Jazz Winds of Patagonia on Thurs, Feb 20 at 7 pm. The ensemble features Director Bill Molenhof on percussion, Marla Gabriela Guala on piano and voice, and Joy Harris on 6-string electric bass and voice. No cost to attend. Free-will offering will be taken.

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.

Region 5

Hamel Immanuel UCC will hold its Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 22 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, applesauce, drinks and dessert. Adults $10; Children 6 - 9 years $5; Children 5 and under free. Carry outs available. Basket, quilt & 32” TV raffles. Country Store. Contact 618-633-2277.