Crazy, Odd, Strange, Unpleasant, Broken, Unlovable
This past Saturday as Conference leaders, pastors and active church members gathered for our Day of Discipleship event, I bore witness to something powerful happening. It was the breaking down of barriers and the opening up of people's minds, hearts, and spirits when one chooses to tell their story with vulnerability, integrity, and complete honesty.

Our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, beautifully and boldly shared her story of mental illness in her family and the ways she had experienced deep internalized shame. The shame was born out of harmful theology which was rooted in judgment, condemnation and marginalization of those considered to be the "crazy," the "odd", the "strange", the "unpleasant", the "broken" and the "unlovable." The shame was born out of the stigma present in families, communities, and the church. The shame was born out of the silence produced by all who were not willing to talk about the pain, suffering and even surprising lessons in dealing with the realities of mental illness and/or disabilities.

Rev. Dr. Lund reminded us, through her own witness, of how something empowering happens when one is willing to name the harmful theologies which are often embedded all around us and to remove the stigma by breaking the silence in telling their story. "This is what the church can do," she said.

"This is what the church can do," was a phrase, which stuck to me and moved me to a place of deep reflection and hope. For this is what Jesus did. The message and life of Jesus reminds us that the ones we name as the "crazy," "odd", "strange", "unpleasant", "broken" and "unlovable" are, in fact, created by God, are of equal worth, and are fully loved by God. Imagine if the Church were only to preach and live into this message of Christ. Imagine how differently we would act, speak, and love if we first believed this ourselves. Imagine the impact the Church of Jesus Christ could have on the world.

Yet, there are many places, even in local churches in which it is anything but love, acceptance, affirmation, and grace that some will experience. Instead, they will experience hatred, rejection, denial, and judgment. What saddens me about this reality is that although we might expect such things in many other places in the world, we should not experience them in the Church. Hatred, rejection, denial, and judgment are not only harmful, they are the most heretical, anti-Biblical, un-Christ like messages we could preach and teach.

Jesus believed in the transforming power of love. The Church is at its best and most faithful when we are preaching, teaching, and living out the profound, and transformative messages of: ALL are God's beloved children, fully created in the image of God. ALL are good and worthy in the eyes of the Creator. God loves ALL people. There are no qualifiers or exceptions to the love of God. The call of Christ is clear and concise, "This is my command to love one another, just as I have loved you."

May we live this.
May we practice this.
May we as the Church of Jesus Christ be known by it.
Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

Are you coming to Green DuBois and DuBois Center’s Spring Star Party? The event is March 20, from 7-10pm. There will be a bonfire and snacks, with trams running to the Rustic shelter for star viewing at 7:30pm and 8:30pm. Here's a bulletin insert to make it easy to promote the Star Party in your congregation. Bring a carload to this free, family-friendly event.

Pray for...
Prayer list for March 8-14, 2020
Churches & Pastors
- New Hanover Zoor UCC, Rev. R.J. (Lisa) Morgan
Deaconess Nurse Ministry and the Good Samaritan Fund

The Good Samaritan Fund through Deaconess Nurse Ministry provides financial support, subject to available fund, for UCC active and retired clergy and their partners/spouses who reside in the Missouri Mid-South and Illinois South Conference. Deaconess Nurse Ministry assumes no financial liability or fundraising responsibility for this program and only the Good Samaritan Fund will be utilized.

Eligible Applicant criteria:
Active or retired UCC clergy with good standing and residing in the Missouri Mid-South or Illinois South Conference of the UCC. Surviving domestic partners or spouses of active or retired UCC Clergy residing in the Missouri Mid-South or Illinois South Conference of the UCC. If a surviving spouse of clergy remarries, they are no longer eligible.

Types of Assistance:
One time, Emergency Assistance Grants are for unforeseen circumstances that create financial demand. Emergency Grants do not subsidize churches or agencies or relieve them of meeting normal compensation responsibilities. Emergency grants are generally considered once per person in a twelve-month period with a maximum of $3,000 for the year. Credit counseling or other no cost financial counseling programs may be recommended for those who have avoidable financial circumstances. The Deaconess Nurse Ministry’s Executive Director is authorized to give approval for Emergency Assistance Grants.

Gap Assistant Grants are for a specific financial need for a short-term period which will eventually be resolved by other funding sources. Gap funding is available for up to 12 months rolling for a total amount of $15,000 to an individual. Approval of the Executive Director and a Finance Committee member from Deaconess Nurse Ministry will be required for Gap Assistance Grants. An Exception for additional grant amount may be approved by the Deaconess Nurse Ministry’s Executive Committee.

Referral Process:
Applicant will need to make contact with their respective conference minister for referral process.

Nature Photography Retreat May 1-2
Registration is now open for a Nature Photography Retreat at DuBois Center May 1-2. This overnight retreat will feature two experts- Brady Kesner (left), professional nature photographer from Highland, and Marty Kemper (right), retired biologist and avid birder from Nashville, to guide you through camp during spring bird migration and spring wildflower season. Friday night will include presentations on common wildlife, rare plants and photography skills. Saturday will allow plenty of time for photos anywhere your feet can take you at camp. Get more details, registration info and the full retreat schedule on the flyer here.
This is a great opportunity to explore some flora and fauna at camp, hone your photography skills, or just enjoy a spring weekend outdoors. Bring your friends and a camera- beginners and amateurs of any age with a DSLR camera are welcome. Early bird registration is now open until April 1. Register early online to ensure your spot.
Click here for more information or here for poster layout.

On March 2, 2020, the ISC Conference Council unanimously approved this inclusivity statement to be prominently included on all promotional materials (print, digital, websites and social media platforms) of the Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center.

Retired Pastors
- Rev. Linda and Bob Coulson, Palm Coast, FL

People with Life Concerns
- Please pray for the members and friends of Zion UCC in Metropolis as they recently decided to vote to become a part of the Evangelical Association and are no longer a part of the United Church of Christ. In 1853 through the faith, resources, and dedication of their ancestors and denominational leaders, the church was born. This is the legacy upon which they continue to stand. We give thanks for their 167 years of ministry in the United Church of Christ and as a part of the Illinois South Conference.
- 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.

Inclusivity Statement for DuBois Center and Illinois South Conference of the UCC
Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background,
INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT FOR DUBOIS CENTER AND THE ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE OF THE UCC

Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.

Yearbook Information is Due by Tomorrow at Midnight. Get your information in as soon as possible. Click here for church Instructions.

Day of Discipleship in Review

Here are a few candid shots of the speakers, vendors and food at Day of Discipleship. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, UCC Minister for Disabilities & Mental Health Justice, who shared her personal story and how we might be good stewards of God by opening our hearts and churches to all. Rev. Michelle Torigian, Pastor at Belleville St. Paul UCC, wrote a wonderful liturgy to open the day, and Revs. Lisa Hart, Lori Schafer and Janet Darmour-Paul participated with readings in the worship service. Thanks to Yvonne Petito, Hoyleton Youth & Family Services; Anne King Riley, Human Support Services; Rev. Michael Cassady, St. Peter's UCC in Murphysboro; Nancy Berry, St. John's Community Care; Rev. Dr. John Allen, Chaplain and CPE Educator at SSM Health St. Louis University Hospital; and Lynne Taylor, Christ UCC in Belleville & Trained Instructor of Stop the Bleed Program for teaching the various workshops. Eden Seminary Bookstore & Rev. Lorin Cope; DuBois Center; Green DuBois; Disaster Relief; ISC Pride; Recruitment Committee; and Ecuador Partnership provided people with resources. Over 100 people attended from ISC churches. St. Paul UCC in Waterloo were terrific hosts and provided everyone with a tasty meal. Thank you to everyone who presented and participated. For more photos, check out our website or Facebook page.

CELEBRATE CAMP in March & April!

Included in our Big Spring Mailing to churches in January were flyers, schedules, and helpful hints and tools for promoting spring programs and summer camp at DuBois Center. 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 - there's over a dozen of them - or click on the featured links below. You are ENCOURAGED to share the links in your bulletins, newsletters and on your website. If you would like to receive another copy of the packet by mail, contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

- Top Ten Things...
- Promote Your Camp
- Camp Schedule
- Bulletin Insert - Summer Camp & Service Saturday
- Bulletin Insert - Block Party & Volunteers
Summer Camp - EARLY BIRD DEADLINE - Wednesday, April 1st
No fooling! All you need to be singing a happy Early Bird tune is a completed 2020 Camp Registration Form and $50 non-refundable deposit. Save $30 on full-week sessions and $15 on part-week sessions. Check out the brochure or schedule, then register and pay online or postmark your registration form and deposit by April 1. Use this form for mail-in or email registration. If your church pays part of the camp fee, we will send them an invoice later in the season. Don't delay or space may not be available in your first choice of sessions! 12 Horsin' Around, June 7-12, is already half full.

**Registration**
618.357.1809
register@DuBoisCenter.org

**Questions?**
www.DuBoisCenter.org
dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org

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FATHER-SON RETREAT
April 24-26
Camp is about relationships and what better way to build and strengthen family ties than with a weekend away for fathers, sons, grandfathers, grandsons, uncles and nephews?! Fish, hike, canoe or just hang out together. Make cool crafts and new friends, 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. This weekend is geared for those age 5 and older, and families participate together. **Online Registration is now open.** Space is limited. Early Bird Deadline is April 3; final registration deadline is April 10 if space is still available. Click here for more information or to register by mail or email. Questions? Contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

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CALLING ALL QUILTERS!
For over a decade, the quilt drawing has been a significant piece of the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival. In recent years, we have been blessed to have two or more art quality quilts each year which together have raised $1500-$2400 annually. The quilts are donated by local church quilting groups and other friends of DuBois Center. Specifications: new or like-new, queen-size - this size seems to be most popular, appealing to a wide audience, and made with love and prayers. Ideally, the quilts begin traveling to local churches in August, so a July completion date works well. If you or your quilting group might be interested in donating a work-of-art quilt for the 2020 Fall Festival, please contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. We'd love to talk to you about the possibilities.

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Summer Camp 2020 - This Is Our Prayer!
At its core, prayer is about longings of the human heart. Our daily themes for this summer explore issues and concerns that all people wrestle with, regardless of their beliefs or background. As people of faith, we look to scripture and the traditions of those who came before us to see how we might face these same issues in our own lives. One consistent tool we see in both scripture and the tradition of the Church is prayer. People pray in different ways, yet that connection to God is at the heart of many happy endings. Likewise, in times of struggle and sadness, people have looked for guidance, comfort, hope and healing. Often those blessings have been realized through a form of Prayer.

For some, prayer is simply speaking their thoughts and feelings to God. For others, it is clearing their minds and settling their hearts to make space for God. Some pray through music, art or the movement of their body in dance or exercise. Some pray out loud, while others pray in whispers. Sometimes the task we keep working at, even when it doesn't seem to make a difference, is a physical prayer of hope. Sometimes the relationships we build are prayers of love. It doesn't matter if we fold our hands and bow or raise them up and look to heaven, God is longing to connect with us. God is listening for the longings of our heart.

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SUMMER JOBS - APPLY NOW!
Is this the year for more than just another summer job? DuBois Center is searching for fun-loving and child-focused individuals with hearts for ministry to serve on our summer staff. Amazing memories + resume building skills = a summer to remember. Check out the Summer of Service flyer and consider whether serving outdoors with a dynamic team might be just the opportunity for you. Open positions include cabin counselors, barn staff and coordinators. Lifeguard certification is a plus.
This summer we'll explore Bible stories about Jesus and his disciples, Ester, Jonah, Solomon and others as we explore and pray together.

Questions? Contact Shirley at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. Application packets are available online.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:**
**Nature's Classroom Instructor**
Are you a substitute teacher, active retiree or someone with a flexible schedule? Do you enjoy the outdoors and have experience working with youth or as a teacher? Nature's Classroom Instructors are needed in April. Work with school groups (grades 5-8) that stay overnight at DuBois Center. Provide a fun and collaborative environment, while teaching about predator-prey interactions, night life in the woods, shelter building, erosion, teamwork, pioneer skills and other engaging topics. Our instructors teach classes and lead campfires and other evening activities. Parent chaperones supervise free time, dining tables and cabin times. Training is provided, as are meals and overnight accommodations during Nature's Classroom sessions. Check out this program brochure or position description. Then contact DuBois Center 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!

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**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's 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.
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.
Click here to register or here for a flyer.

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. The 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.
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.

Prevention is the best medicine for the Coronavirus!
Daily in the news media we have heard about the spread of the Coronavirus. The Coronavirus is a respiratory virus that is spread by droplets as we cough and breathe. Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is avoid being exposed to this virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the following in preventing the spread of respiratory diseases such as the Coronavirus:
● Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
● Avoid, when out in the community, touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
● Stay home when you are sick. The symptoms of Coronavirus are similar to the flu with runny nose, cough and sneezing, fever and body aches, and headache, but progresses to pneumonia more quickly, especially for adults.
● Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
● Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
● The following is the CDC's guidelines for using a facemask:
● CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves.
● Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health care workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or healthcare facility).
● WASH YOUR HANDS often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
● If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
Currently, there is no specific antiviral treatment for the Coronavirus. Supportive treatment includes taking care of the symptoms and supporting the respiratory system. If you think you have been exposed to the Coronavirus see your healthcare provider. Our Deaconess nurses can help you decide whether or not you should see a healthcare provider. Click here for a flyer with this information. Contact 314-395-4655.
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...

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

EvUCC in Highland will present a Good Friday Tenebrae cantata at 7 pm on April 10. Who Is Jesus? is a powerful new cantata by Joel Rainey that gives a multi-generational look at the events of Holy Week. EvUCC's Chancel Choir and guests will be accompanied by a small orchestra. Families are encouraged to sit near the front so children can see better. During the cantata, the altar will be stripped and lights dimmed. All are encouraged to leave in quiet reflection when the service ends.

Region 2
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 Kindercottage.

On Sun, March 8, Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, President of Deaconess Foundation, will be guest preacher at Columbia St. Paul UCC. He will bring the word of God

Region 5
Exhale Youth Group from Alhambra Salem UCC will hold a 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; $5.50 children under 10

Region 5
St. Jacob UCC will host a Scrap Book Day on April 4 from 8 am to 9 pm. Vendors wanted. Fee includes a 6-foot table, electricity, 3 meals, drinks and snacks for $40. All proceeds benefit the Youth Group Mission Trips. To register, contact Dawn at smdz@hometel.com or 618-792-4316.

Region 8
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
and tell about the new ventures of Deaconess Foundation. Tammy Krebel, member of St. Paul UCC, serves on the Board of Directors of the Deaconess Foundation. The Scripture Lesson will be John 3:1-9. His messages are titled: "Water and the Spirit" at the 9 am service and "How Can These Things Be" at the 10:30 am service.

Red Bud St. Peter UCC presents a Fish Fry on Fri, March 20 and Fri, April 3 serving from 4 pm - 7 pm. Menu includes jumbo cod, catfish cutups, chicken strips, German potato salad, American potato salad, stewed tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, slaw, and fries. Eat in or carry out.

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

Regions 3 & 5

Various Churches from Regions 3 & 5 will conduct joint Wednesday night services during Lent.

- **March 4** - Marine UCC, 111 N. Center St., Marine
- **March 11** - Immanuel UCC, 5838 Staunton Road, Hamel
- **March 18** - Grantfork UCC, 206 S. Locust St., Grantfork
- **March 25** - St. Paul UCC, 3277 Bluff Road, Edwardsville
- **April 1** - Marine UCC, 111 N. Center St., Marine

Region 4

Brighton St. John's UCC presents its Friday Fish Fries starting Fri, March 6 and ending April 3 from 11 am - 6 pm each Friday. Dine in or carry out. They deliver to Brighton area businesses and school during the lunch time. Call ahead for delivery or carry out 618-372-3737. Menu includes white fish and buffalo fish, pulled pork, brats and hot dogs, green beans, baked beans, mac & cheese, coleslaw and potato salad, and homemade pies and desserts.

Children 5 to 10 years - $5; Children 4 years & under free; Carry-outs and curb service - $10.

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.

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, coleslaw, 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.

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 Quartermania 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

The contemporary Christian rock band The Great Romance performing in concert at Zion United Church of Christ in New Baden on Sunday, March 15 at 6:30 pm. Free admission with goodwill offering benefiting our community food pantry.

New Baden Zion UCC will hold Fish Dinners on 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, coleslaw and dessert. Adults $10; Children $5.

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