"Love your neighbor as YOURSELF"

The longest human relationship we have is with the person we often know the least about. It is a person we often ignore, even though they speak to us over 60,000 times in a day. It is a person whose needs we often dismiss, even though we know them intimately. It is a person we often give the least amount of attention to, even though we are with them every day. It is a person we often treat without regard or respect, even though the person would demand it of others. It is a person we often struggle to fully love, even though it is what they need the most in order to love others in the way Christ asks of them.

Who is that person? Yourself. It is YOU.

One of Christ's greatest commandments is "love your neighbor as yourself." Although it is good and right that we focus on loving our neighbor, we often dismiss the deepest truth that we cannot fully love our neighbor or any other person until we love ourselves.

Physicians, psychologists, and pastors alike can attest to the stark reality of the harm done by people who painfully struggle with an ability to forgive, care for, or love themselves. There is a sad truth behind the adage that "hurt people" hurt people. Honestly, I see it all the time in churches that are embroiled in conflict, division, and despair. I see it in pastors and church leaders who have gone astray from the path of servant leadership. I see it in those who are seeking the love from others when they cannot give it to themselves. I see it in those who cannot love others because they do not love themselves. The truth we are unwilling to accept and believe is we cannot give to others what we cannot give to ourselves.

Many people dismiss the wisdom of self-care. Yet, there is no better investment than in investing in one's self. There is nothing more life giving and essential than understanding what gives one's life meaning and purpose. I realize self-care is an overused term. I also realize the concept has been distilled down to shallow plateaus of superficial actions of caring for one's self. Therefore, the importance of self-care is often shrugged off. The kind of self-care I am referring to is actually hard work. It is intentional work.

It is life-changing work because it is rooted in learning how to love one's self the way God loves us.

It is an unconditional love.
It is a steadfast love.
It is a love that is slow to anger and abounding in grace and mercy.
It is a love, which has plans for you, which seeks not to harm you, but to give you a hope and a future.
It is a love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

This the love God has for us. This is the kind of love you must show to yourself in order to love your neighbor as yourself.

During this Lenten season, I want to offer you an invitation to join me in the spiritual discipline of spending time with yourself, getting to know yourself, and accepting yourself so you might come to love yourself in the way God loves you. A love of self is vital in order to fulfill Christ's greatest command, "Love your neighbor has yourself."

If you choose to do this spiritual discipline, may God richly bless you in your journey of self-care, self-discovery, and self-love.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 15 Preaching at St. Mark's UCC, DuBois
March 29 Preaching at St. John's UCC, Weldon Spring

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

Pray for...
Prayer list for March 15-21, 2020
Churches & Pastors
- O'Fallon UCC, Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer
- Ohlman St. Paul's UCC, Rev. Dr. Steve (Debbi) Nance

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 15 Preaching at St. Mark's UCC, DuBois
March 29 Preaching at St. John's UCC, Weldon Spring
April 5  Preaching at the dedication of Heritage Hall at St. Paul UCC, Belleville
April 19  Preaching at St. John UCC, Collinsville on the occasion of the baptism of Bryan Bielke (son of Rev. Katie Jo and Craig Bielke) and the farewell Sunday of Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan
April 26  Preaching at the Installation of Rev. Dana Schindler at Immanuel UCC, Hamel

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

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...
Godfrey Evangelical UCC put up a Valentine Tree with tags for members to choose and bring needed items for Kindercottage. Lois Gibson (second from left), Ginny Ilch (second from right), and Sandy Olive (right) delivered the gifts to Kindercottage. Brenda Crisp is on the left receiving their gifts. The teachers were very excited to receive the gifts and their comments were: "Amazing." "Wow, they really did a big thing for the kids." "Everyone will get something." Godfrey Evangelical UCC has a continuing relationship with Kindercottage, which is much appreciated. Thank you so much for winter warmth from heads to toes and places in-between.

The Confirmation Class from St. Peter's UCC in Okawville and their pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Schwab, visited Kindercottage recently. The youth played with the children and Rev. Schwab read to some of the children. Kindercottage appreciates visitors who interact with the children. Thank you for your mission work.

Rev. Patrick Poole was installed as called pastor for Zion UCC St. Joe in Waterloo on Sun, March 8. The pastors and representatives of Illinois South Conference who attended are pictured above. They are:
Front row (l to r): Rev. Ivan Horn, Hecker Friedens UCC and member of ISC Executive Committee; Lois Gibson, ISC Committee on Ministry; Rev. Patrick Poole, Pastor for Zion UCC St. Joe in Waterloo and St. John UCC in Maeystown; Lisa Huebner, President of Zion UCC St. Joe in Waterloo.

Retired Pastors
- Rev. Bill and Patti Causer, Mt. Vernon, IL

People with Life Concerns
- It is with deep sadness we ask for prayers for the family of Rev. Dr. David Lewis Beebe who died on March 4. Rev. Beebe served many Illinois South Conference churches as an intentional interim. He brought such insight, compassion, and a deep commitment to encouraging and re-establishing healthy covenantal relationships. Many of our churches are stronger because of his ministry. Visitation is at St. John UCC in St. Charles on March 29 from 2 pm - 3 pm. A memorial service will be held at the church on March 29 at 3 pm. Cards of condolence can be sent to his family 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, 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.
Why Give to OGHS?
The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering funds key priorities in Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. Our participation in changing the world through supporting sustainable development programs, our commitment to addressing the global challenges of migration and the focus on long term recovery following disasters are a few of the ways in which your gifts to OGHS are impacting global change.

"Invest in Futures" is an invitation to look beyond the issues that are present with us today and instead, look long term to the ways in which the gifts we bring will have long term effects on the planet. Your gift to OGHS is making a difference. Prepare for One Great Hour of Sharing with these resources. The suggested date for the offering is Sunday, March 22, 2020. Learn about OGHS  Sermon Starter  Worship Resources  Bulletin Inserts

Dementia - How You Can Help
The people attending the Day of Discipleship workshop dealing with dementia asked Nancy Berry, St. John's Community Care, to share her presentation. We felt there may be more people who would benefit from this information. Click here to download the presentation slides.

Tennessee Tornadoes - March 3, 2020
UCC Disaster Ministries is in contact with the UCC’s Southeast Conference since Tuesday (March 3), when tornadoes swept through central Tennessee, taking more than two dozen lives, displacing many others and causing extensive damage.

The Rev. Char Burch, Transitional Conference Minister (pictured), reported, "We have three churches in Nashville and one small church in Cookeville, the community where most of the people died. The churches and members of the congregations are not dealing with significant damage."

Burch said Brookmeade UCC in Nashville was providing housing for 10 men who are "usually housed elsewhere, but that facility has lost power. They also have a member of the congregation that needed some assistance." The conference and congregation have been able to cover the need, Burch said.

United Church of Cookeville is exploring how it can best assist its ravaged community, she said. Burch has put the UCC congregation in Cookeville in touch with the Red Cross and with David Zerby of the Heartland Conference Disaster Response Team.

While, for now, "things are ok" with UCC churches and members, Burch said, "I assume that the need in Cookeville may be for long-term assistance. We have some financial resources that we will use. I also assume that our local churches will respond as needed. I will keep you posted and let you know if we need some support from the national setting and wider UCC community."

The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, UCC Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Operations and Co-Executive for Global Ministries, affirmed, "UCC Disaster Ministries will continue in its commitment to long-term recovery in communities affected by disasters."

I GOT MINE! Did you get yours?
Brochures, posters and other helpful promotional materials were mailed to ISC churches in January. Program booklets were mailed last week. If your church has not received theirs - first, check around for a white Priority Mail box or a manila envelope. No luck? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Also, let us know if you would like to receive additional copies of any of the items in the January packet.
Summer Camp - EARLY BIRD DEADLINE - Wednesday, April 1st

No fooling! All you need to be an Early Bird 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!

Registration
618.357.1809
register@DuBoisCenter.org

Questions?
www.DuBoisCenter.org

Camp/Program
618.787.2202
dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org

JUST YOU & ME Camp Dates

No matter how many times the brochure is proofed, we always find a couple mistakes... after it goes to print. The dates for the two Just You & Me Camps are: June 7-9 and June 14-16. There are NO Just You & Me Camps in July.

WHY CHURCH CAMP?

Because church camp is joyful fun! It is a sacred place. It is intensely relational and positive role models abound! Church camp is an integral part of the year-round faith formation efforts of many congregations. However, it is very different from VBS or Sunday School. Campers and leaders live, work, play and worship together from early morning until late into the evening. They grow together through shared experiences in God's amazing creation and form an intentional community. They hear our faith stories in new places and new ways, and find opportunities to share their own. The activities are fun, challenging and filled with opportunities to grow as part of a Christian community. Check out the 2020 Summer Adventures brochure and learn more about DuBois Center's faith-building opportunities for all ages! Ready to register? Choose from online and mail-in registration.

WRANGLE & RIDE

Early Bird Deadline: March 14

Enjoy springtime at DuBois Center on horseback! Join our equestrian team on Sat, April 4 from 9 am - 5 pm for a full day of fun with the DuBois Center herd. Designed for both beginning riders and those with some experience, this is a horse-intensive day of grooming, tacking, riding, instruction and other horse-related activities. Beginners will be introduced to basic skills, while more experienced riders work on more advanced techniques. The cost is $65 and lunch is included. Register online or click here for more information or to register by mail or email. Early Bird Deadline: March 14. Final Registration Deadline is March 21 - if space is still available. Questions? Contact us at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@duboiscenter.org.

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.
worship, explore the woods or just sit back and read a book. For more information, contact Shirley at DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

HOME FOR SPRING BREAK?
Apply Now for Summer Jobs at DuBois Center!
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 this one for barn positions. 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. Questions? Contact Shirley at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. Application packets are available online.

LENTEN WORK DAY
Saturday, April 4
Stretch your muscles, get a little dirty and make a difference! Help spruce up the grounds for our busy spring and summer seasons. It's a great Lenten discipline for you and a wonderful way to get involved and help at DuBois Center. Projects vary, depending on the weather and the skills of the workers - carpentry, cleaning, painting, moving items out of winter storage and more. Lunch is provided. Check out and share this flyer. RSVP to 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. If this date doesn't work for you, call to set up an alternative day for your church or family group.

What's a Star Party? An evening of star gazing, with hot chocolate and snacks around the campfire! This specific night just might be one of the best nights of the season to check out the night sky - depending on the weather. Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate the start of spring! Festivities are scheduled from 7-10pm on March 20 - the Spring Equinox, and will begin with a bonfire and snacks at Picnic Point. The big open playing field in the Rustic Village with be our prime star gazing location. Trams will run to and from this area from the toasty campfire at 7:30pm and 8:30pm. Bring your own binoculars or view the sky with provided equipment. This is a FREE conference-wide, family-friendly event sponsored by Green DuBois. Dress warmly and bring your friends, neighbors, youth group or Sunday School class. NOTE: This event will be cancelled if there is rain or heavy, persistent cloud cover.

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!

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.
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.

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...

Job Opportunity: Staunton St. Paul UCC is searching for a new director for Exhale, their youth ministry for grades 6-12. Approximately 15-20 hours weekly. Must be familiar with the UCC and theologically progressive. Responsibilities include weekly Exhale meetings, planning and implementing annual mission trip and fundraisers; devotions; service projects; assist with Vacation Bible School and attend worship at least twice monthly. Send resume or contact Pastor Debbie at revdjkamins@gmail.com or 618-635-2386.

Job Opportunity: Full-time, salaried Executive Director of Child-Care Center, 6 weeks-6 years of age with after-school program; works with ministry-led board. Bachelor's degree preferred. Director's credential Level 1, experience & understanding of quality rating scales, DCFS licensing, applicable certifications & credentials required. Full job description, click here. Apply with cover letter, resume, three professional references, academic transcripts by 4/10/2020 to: search@unipreskindercottage.org. For more information, contact Rev. Don Wagner 618-537-4991 or 618-444-2834.

Nature Photography Retreat - May 1-2, 2020
Registration is now open for a Nature Photography Retreat at DuBois Center May 1-2. This overnight retreat will feature two experts, Brady Kesner, professional nature photographer from Highland (left), and Marty Kemper, retired biologist and avid birder from Nashville (right), 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.

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.

Dupo Christ UCC presents its All You Can Eat Chicken & Dumpling Dinner on Sun, March 29 from 11:30 am - 3 pm. Dinner includes chicken & dumplings, green beans, carrots, cole slaw, bread and dessert. Adults $10; Children 5 to 12 yrs $4; Children under 5 yrs Free.

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

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.
Carry outs available. Call 618-286-4211 for deliveries.

Regions 3 & 5

Various Churches from Regions 3 & 5 will conduct joint Wednesday night services during Lent.
- March 11 – Immanuel UCC, 5838 Staunton Rd, Edwardsville, IL
- 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

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.

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 4

Brighton St. John's UCC presents its Friday Fish Fry from Fri, March 13 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.

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Region 5

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.

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

Region 6

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.

Region 7

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.

Region 8


Region 9


Belleville St. Paul UCC's Fine Art Concert Series presents Yearning to Breathe Free performed by the Southern Illinois College Concert Band conducted by Ed Jacobs on Sun, May 3 at 3 pm. No charge to attend. A free-will offering will be taken. Everyone is welcome.