Easter Video Service
Rev. Shana Johnson and the Illinois South Conference Local Church Ministries Team are in the process of creating a video-recorded Easter worship service, which will be sent out by email to pastors, by email to the Weekly Connection list, on the ISC website home page, and on the ISC Facebook page during Holy Week for our local churches in the Illinois South Conference. It will not hit Facebook until Sunday morning, but may go up earlier by the other means when it is ready. This simple worship service will include the talents of many in our Conference and is intended to be a gift to all of you. Please watch for it and help us to celebrate Easter's Good News as a Conference of faith-filled people.

Illinois South Conference COVID-19 Response
UPDATE #4, April 6, 2020
To Illinois South Conference pastors, church leaders, and congregations:

Don't make your church the next "hot spot" on the news
Easter will be very different this year. Acknowledge the grief of not worshiping in-person, but don’t be tempted to think social distancing might being enough to get away with a face-to-face gathering. There are multiple news stories about church choirs and worship exposing hundreds of people to this deadly virus, and many are now desperately sick or dead. The country is at a critical junction, and for the next two weeks people should not leave home, unless absolutely necessary. Isolation is the only thing we have at this moment to reduce the rate of COVID-19 infections. There are confirmed cases in 11 of 12 counties where ISC churches are located.

Practices to avoid right now:
- Visiting anyone in person, not even if they're ill, and especially if there’s been a recent death. Only connect face-to-face with those you live with; call or connect online with everyone else.
- Encouraging people to park and talk from open windows or sit in spaced-out chairs.
- Doing drive-through communion or blessings.
- Asking musicians, or anyone else, to come to the church building.
- Gathering in a group, even if it’s under 10 people, and even if it’s outside. Find other ways to meet pastoral care and social interaction needs. If you’re stuck on how to do something, contact a colleague and get a fresh perspective.

ISC Spirit
If you know of stories that illustrate people being the church, please send it to ISCspirit@iscucc.org. We need to see the hands and feet of Jesus in action right now! Share the stories that are warming your heart. #ISCspirit.

Jeremy Wood and the Salem Church faith family on Palm Sunday. "Hosanna, loud Hosanna, the little children sing..."

David and Carol Shanks hand out lunches with TWIGS in Granite City to reach children who live on the outskirts and don’t have a way to visit one of the Granite City schools that distribute lunches. They are doing the essential work of keeping kids fed while wearing protective gear and limiting interaction time to an absolute minimum. Bethel UCC in Cahokia is assisting these children with weekend food.

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 April 13-April 19, 2020
Churches & Pastors
- Saint Jacob UCC, Rev. Nancy (Stephen) Gamache
- Smithton St. John's UCC, Rev. Andrew (Kristin) Wilson
Paycheck Protection Program, part of the national stimulus program Churches are eligible to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program, which can help cover payroll and other specific expenses. Contact the bank you normally do business with about applying for this loan through the Small Business Administration. The Conference is also exploring getting a loan from this program. There is some possibility these loans could become grants down the road, but the rules for this are not finished at present. It is strongly recommended by the United Church of Christ and the Executive Committee of the Conference that anyone exploring this program consider it a loan to be repaid, and not a debt that will be forgiven. Estimate your needs accurately and conservatively before applying, and understand the terms of repayment. Go here to learn more: Small Business Administration - Paycheck Protection Program

Illinois South Conference Easter Service
With the nimble assistance of the Local Church Ministries Team, the Conference is offering an Easter worship service that will be available starting at 6am on Easter morning, April 12, 2020. The video will be on our Conference website (iscucc.org) and on our Facebook page. (@Illinois.South.Conference.UCC). We will also send out an email later this week with instructions of how to access the video. You may use it as your worship or you can direct congregants to view it anytime it works for them. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Helpful Information
- Everyone is advised to wear a face covering if they must be out in public. Many of the masks you’ve seen on TV or online are sewn, but some don’t have the knowledge or the equipment to make these. But, there are many more options to make a mask including: bandanas and hair ties, cloth and paracord, and shop towels and rubber bands, and even a single sock cut just the right way. While none of them are medical grade, they offer some protection to both the wearer and the public. A quick search will yield dozens of patterns and ideas for whatever you have on hand. Together in Christ's ministry with you, Dr. Jill Baker, Conference Moderator
Rev. Christy Eckert, Conference Vice-Moderator
Mr. Dwight Asselmeier, Conference Treasurer
Rev. Ivan Horn, Conference Secretary
Rev. Shana Johnson, IL South Conference Minister
Rev. Rosemary Captain
Ms. Virginia Ilch
Rev. R.J. Morgan
Rev. Mike Southcombe
Ms. Barbara VanAusdall

Time, time, time...
Hopes, dreams, aspirations.
Shattered.
Fate only laughs.
But in the shadows, love cries.
In the midst of the shattered shards, hold fast to love.
The mystery is that love is stronger.
Its tears break down fate's laughter.
Like the river's waters...
wearying on a rock.

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Easter Greetings from Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8PRSqUcx1k&feature=youtu.be
Love, care, action—it's what the world needs right now. Even in uncertain times, each one of us seeks ways to make a difference and help others. Be a part of healing the planet.

Participate in one of five ways to honor and celebrate this historic 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

**5 Ways to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day**

1. Help our denomination plant 50,000 trees! Have a tree planted for $1 in a National Park or support one of our Global Mission Partners in planting trees.

2. Order your copy of *Cathedral on Fire!: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis* by Brooks Berndt, the UCC's Minister for Environmental Justice. Stay tuned for details about an online book group!

3. Prepare for Earth Sunday with a terrific resource entitled "The Fierce Urgency of Now." It was written in collaboration with Creation Justice Ministries and includes resources for preaching and worship.

4. Protect communities and children from harmful toxic pollutants. The UCC's new report "Breath to the People": Sacred Air and Toxic Air Pollution comes with an advocacy toolkit and an action alert for urging much needed legislation.

5. On Earth Day, watch one of the foremost leaders of the environmental justice movement deliver an online address. The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, who coined the phrase "environmental racism," will present in a webinar. Register now! Join with others. Make a difference. You are needed!

**Face Mask with ties instead of elastic**

Rev. Donna Pupillo, Deaconess Nurse Ministry, is making a plea for face masks - either construction or painter grade or home-sewn. They are needed by the nurses as they care for people. There are instructions in the video below. Please contact Donna at dpupillo@faithnurses.org for instructions for other patterns and how to mail them to the proper place.

Mary Alice Ryan, President/CEO of St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors System in St. Louis, Missouri suggests that your local nursing homes and senior centers may be looking for masks to give to the residents. Although these masks do not protect them from the COVID-19 virus, they can help to prevent other illnesses which could compromise their immune systems. Please check with your local agencies or Rev. Donna Pupillo for the best ways to distribute your made masks.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-R8Ox3Spw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-R8Ox3Spw)

**THIS IS YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK**

During the shelter in place order, all Conference staff will be working remotely. However, this does not mean we are unavailable to you. If you need to reach someone in the Conference office here is some important information to keep handy.

Concerning the work of Conference teams and committees or search and call inquiries, please reach out to Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org.

Concerning financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), please reach out to Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org.

Concerning getting something communicated within the Conference or where something is posted on the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, please reach out to Lynnette Schuepbach at lschuepbach@iscucc.org.

Concerning registration for upcoming events, please reach out to Julie Riechmann at jriechmann@iscucc.org. For all things DuBois Center, please reach out to Shirley Asmussen at DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or email dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

To speak with the Conference Minister, please reach out to Rev. Shana Johnson via email at sjohnson@iscucc.org or by phone at 618-882-8247.

**Daily COVID-19 Briefing from UCC - facts, not fear**

COVID-19 Daily Briefing from UCC's Humanitarian and Development Team separates facts from falsehoods and fear, supplying valuable information throughout the duration of the pandemic crisis. This resource is prepared by Barbara T. Baylor, MPH, Temporary Health Liaison serving on UCC's Wider Church Ministries - Humanitarian and Development Team. Use this [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-R8Ox3Spw) to see the daily updates.
SPLASH! - June 21-26 & July 5-10
Back by popular demand - SPLASH! There are two great sessions from which to choose - both based out of the main camp cottages. The age groups vary a bit between the two, so be sure to check the schedule. All DuBois Center campers spend time at the waterfront, but these sessions are designed for those who want to spend even more time IN, ON and NEAR the lake. Sand castles, masks & fins, early morning canoeing, crazy water games & challenges, water experiments, vespers on the beach - who knows what cool adventures might drift our way! Check out our camp brochure online. To receive one by mail, contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. Space is limited, so don't wait too long. If you are ready to register, click here.

A FEW GOOD MEN - Summer Jobs - Apply Now!
DuBois Center is in search of a few good men to round out our summer staff roster. We have solid applicants for the female cabin counselor positions, but not for their male counterparts. If you or someone you know enjoys working with people, has a heart for ministry and is looking for a resume-building summer job - look no further! Check out the Summer of Service flyer and consider whether serving outdoors with a dynamic team might be just the opportunity. Believe it or not, working at camp is a REAL JOB with tangible benefits. Click here to read further about the benefits of working at camp. Questions? Contact Shirley at shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202. Application packets are available online or can be sent by mail upon request.

EVENT CANCELLATIONS
Father-Son Retreat, April 24-26: If you are registered for this event, contact Julie our camp registrar regarding payments at register@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-357-1809.
Spring Thank You Party, April 28: This event will be rescheduled for late summer or fall. Watch for updates.

The earth rests with muted sounds and colors
While the world waits and hopes for new life
And God's people keep watch for the promise of Easter.

REGISTER without RISK
Due to current circumstances, if DuBois Center is required to cancel any camp program, you will have the ability to:
- Donate any/all of your deposit and event fee paid to support the ministry of DuBois Center or
- Transfer any/all of your deposit and event fee paid to a future DuBois Center camp or retreat program, or
- Receive a refund of any/all of your deposit and event fee paid.
In addition, if the federal government, the CDC, state or local authorities, or the written advice of a physician keep you from coming to a DuBois Center camp or event due to COVID-19, the same options listed above apply to your deposit and payments. These exceptions to our normal cancellation and refund policies only apply to circumstances related to COVID-19. For other situations, standard cancellation policies still apply.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL
As you journey through Holy Week to Easter, we invite you to utilize the wonderful Lenten devotional created by Rev. Don Wagner with help from friends from DuBois Center and Green DuBois. Through inspiring messages and photos, this piece speaks to those who find comfort, wisdom and challenge in God's creation and word. With spring bursting out all over while we shelter at home, this tool is even more timely. Click here to read or download this resource in its entirety. For this week's segment, click here. We hope this resource is a blessing to you. Please feel free to share.

Follow Us on Instagram
Spring is a beautiful time of year here at DuBois Center! Be sure to follow us on Instagram, so you don't miss out on any of the great scenery! Also, be on the lookout for posts from our Mystery Camper. He and his mom and dad are sharing photos of some of their favorite times and places at DuBois Center.
Emergency grants are generally considered once per person in a twelve-month period. Grants do not subsidize churches or agencies or relieve them of meeting normal compensation responsibilities. One time, Emergency Assistance Grants will be utilized to meet emergencies of clergy who face unexpected circumstances that create financial demand. 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 Assistance Grants do not subsidize churches or agencies or relieve them of meeting normal compensation responsibilities. Emergency assistance grants are generally considered once per person in a twelve-month period with a maximum of $3,000 for eligible applicant criteria.

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 20 - 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.

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!

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. Register early online to ensure your spot. (For the best registration experience, use Google Chrome as your choice of browsers.) Click here for more information or here for poster layout.

St. John's Community Care is focused on continuing to care as they focus on keeping those they serve and their staff as safe as they can. While they cannot currently care for participants in their Adult Day Centers, they are contacting those families regularly to support them emotionally and to determine if there are other ways they can help. They remain available to anyone who needs advice on dementia care or caregiving issues. Because their staff are now working remotely, callers will have to leave a voice mail at 618-344-5008, but those calls will be returned. Likewise, contacting them through their website (www.stjohnssc.org), which now includes a "live chat" function will generate a return call or email.

Their staff has many years of working with families living with dementia and will be happy to do what they can to help everyone weather this challenging time.

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 fund-raising 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 Assistance Grants do not subsidize churches or agencies or relieve them of meeting normal compensation responsibilities. Emergency assistance 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.

What’s Happening at Illinois South Conference...

**Worship Resource**
A gift of music from The Ökos Ensemble for you and your church
These 9 original compositions, plus a jazz arrangement of an Easter hymn, were recorded by The Ökos Ensemble and have been performed at more than 300 worship services and sacred jazz concerts around the country. Each one has a story to tell. **You are invited to freely use the music in your worship streaming or for personal and group meditation.** Each entry contains:
- Link to the musical selection on You Tube
- Reflection about the music
- Prayer for personal use or in worship
- Lyrics where applicable

My best wishes and prayers to you as we all seek to navigate through these uncertain times.
Abundant Blessings, Rev. Cliff Aerie with the Ökos Ensemble

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The Music
Click on each song title to be linked to the Worship Jazz Blog. There you will find a link to the music on YouTube, a reflective thought and personal prayer.
- **Forest Muse** by Cliff Aerie (7:47)
- **Dreams and Visions** by Chris Bakriges & Cliff Aerie (5:46)
- **Earth Walk** by Cliff Aerie (8:58)
- **Jiangjing [Live the Way]** by Cliff Aerie (6:38)
- **Up the Downspout** by Cliff Aerie (11:15)
- **Salaam Q’ahira** by Chris Bakriges & Cliff Aerie (10:05)
- **Dance of the Aegean** by Chris Bakriges (7:00)
- **Singing All My Blues Away** by Chris Bakriges & Cliff Aerie (7:42)
- **Joy Dawned Again** by Chris Bakriges [arrangement on hymn tune] (5:45)
- **As One** by Chris Bakriges & Cliff Aerie (4:15)

**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 revdjatkins@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.

**Region 2**

**CANCELLED**
Hecker Friedens UCC Good Friday Fish Fry scheduled for April 10.

**Region 5**

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

**POSTPONED**
Highland EvUCC Auction scheduled for Sat, April 18. No future date has been set at this time.
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| **CANCELLED**  
Brighton St. John UCC Famous Fish Fries will be rescheduled later this year. | **CANCELLED**  
Exhale Youth Group spreading eggs for families. | **CANCELLED**  
Belleville St. Paul UCC's Fine Art Concert Series scheduled for Sun, May 3 at 3 pm. |
| | desserts. Berry Bike Ride sign up here. | |