
Join us and help us to make this a safe space for:

- A time of worship
- A time to remember black sisters and brothers whose lives were brutally taken
- A time for hopeful lament as together we express or own grief over our nation's history of racism
- An opportunity to become educated about white privilege and its consequences
- Your commitment to become active participants in efforts to name our communities' racial sins and address them in meaningful ways.

**WHAT TO BRING:**

- Lawn Chair
- Water, Mask, Hand Sanitizer
- Signs: Black Lives Matter, Whoever You Are, Wherever You are, You Are Welcome Here ...
- Your personal lament, written in the style of a Lament Psalm (optional)
- Nonperishable food items or cash gifts for the Highland Area Community Services Food Pantry.

Because we know you love your neighbors, we are asking you PLEASE to wear a mask and maintain social distancing during this event. **If you are unwilling to wear a mask, please don’t attend.**

Click for a [lament letter](#), [press release](#), [bulletin insert](#) and [poster](#).

**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 July 12 - July 18, 2020**

- Collinsville St. John UCC, Rev. Katie Jo (Craig) Bielke, Associate Pastor
No Justice, No Peace
July 28, 2020 | 3:30 Eastern
Youth and young adults within the United Church of Christ will be gathering virtually with special guests to host a 75-minute rally around the topic of Race Relations & Justice as a starting place for future engagement and leadership development opportunities. For more information, please reach out to Rev. Trayce Potter, Minister for Youth & Young Adult Engagement. To read more or to sign up, click here.

CREATIVITY & JUSTICE IN QUARANTINE - Watch now.

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR IN QUARANTINE - Watch now.

Have you checked out the Spotify playlist yet? Your NYE team has spent weeks curating the perfect playlist for NYE Unite! event - including featured artists and tunes from some of the most beloved artists today. This working repertoire is the ideal way for you to connect during the pandemic and elicit in yourself a renewed sense of resilience, courage and faith. Listen today and share with your community.

CONFERENCE-WIDE BOOK STUDY ON RACISM
Starting Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30 pm, the Justice and Mission Committee will be sponsoring an evening biweekly book study on White Fragility: Why It's so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo. In this best-selling book, author Robin DiAngelo, an antiracist educator, illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and challenges the reader to understand racism "as a practice not restricted to 'bad people.'"

This four-session study can be a meaningful first step for well-intentioned white people to engage in the Christ
centered work of dismantling racism and seeking equity and justice for black and brown people.

Through this book study, we hope participants will become aware of the attitudes that have maintained the status quo of systems, structures, policies, and practices of oppression. We will examine together white fragility, how it develops, how it protects racial inequity, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

Our Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, will lead the online experience open to all members of the Conference.

In order to participate, please purchase the book and read the corresponding chapters before attending and participating in a session. The book can be purchased at a local bookstore, through an online distributor (such as Barnes and Noble or Amazon), and it might be available through your local library. The book is also available in digital form for a Nook or Kindle or audio form. Please make sure you buy the book and not the workbook.

Below is the schedule. Please email Rev. Shana Johnson (sjohnson@iscucc.org) to register for the Zoom Gatherings and to receive preparation materials.

**Wednesday, July 22, 6:30 pm on Zoom**
Session 1: Facing White Supremacy  
(focusing on chapters 1-3)

**Wednesday, August 5, 6:30 pm on Zoom**
Session 2: How Does Race Shape the Lives of White People?  
(focusing on chapters 4-6)

**Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 pm on Zoom**
Session 3: Understanding White Fragility in Action  
(focusing on chapters 7-11)

**Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 pm on Zoom**
Session 4: Where Do We Go From Here?  
(focusing on chapter 12)

Illinois South Conference shares the inspiring stories that show the faith-filled lives within our Conference. We hope this gives you comfort during this time of sheltering in place. If you know of stories that show people being the church, please send it to iscspirit@iscucc.org. Share the stories that are warming your heart. #ISCspirit.

**Attention Music Contacts at All ISC Churches**
On Wednesday, July 8 at 7 pm, Lisa Cleveland, Music Director for Highland Evangelical UCC, will organize and host a zoom meeting for any interested choir director, organist, pianist, bell choir director or music leader in Illinois South Conference to discuss the status of music in current worship services. Her hope is to share resources and/or collaborate ways to keep music alive in worship. There may be ideas floating around that some have not considered or are not aware of. Our hope is to discuss: What HAVE we been doing to provide music for worship?

What tools are each of us using?  
What tools or talents are we able to share?  
How are we ministering to our choir members - of all ages while we are not able to meet with them?  
Watch for an email from her to invite you to a zoom meeting with other music leaders within Illinois South Conference. You may contact her at lceland@evucc.org if you have things to share and cannot make the Zoom meeting.

**CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK**
During the shelter in place order, all Conference staff will be working remotely, but they are available to help you. Keep these contacts handy.

For the work of Conference teams and committees or search and call inquiries, contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org.

For financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org.
For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at lschuepbach@iscucc.org.
For registration for upcoming events or for information about cancelled camp sessions, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org.
For DuBois Center, contact Shirley Asmussen at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@duboiscenter.org.
To speak with the Conference Minister, contact Rev. Shana Johnson at sjohnson@iscucc.org or 618-882-8247.

SINK HOLES & DONORS

Late last fall, a "sink hole" was discovered in the Rustic Village and theories about its origin were flying. Old records were examined, and calls were made to past staff members to determine the cause. Early in 2020, volunteers from Grantfork UCC arrived with their mini excavator. They gently dug around the collapsed area and confirmed our worst suspicions. The 50-year-old septic system had caved in on itself. Then came meetings, bids and state reviews. The work was scheduled to begin in mid-May, but heavy rains and a surprise backlog of projects for the contractor delayed the project. Last week the work began and was nearly completed. There are now new pipes from the Rustic Shower House to the new septic tank and then on to the new sand filter. All good news, except that there was nothing in the budget for this surprise expense.

However, late in 2019, DuBois Center received two sizeable gifts. The Legacy Gift from the members of St. Peter Evangelical UCC in Granite City upon the closing of their church and the subsequent sale of their facility totaled a donation of $12,000 to DuBois Center. The other gift of $10,000 was an anonymous gift from a UCC church member. Both were undesignated with the intention that they would be used to support the ministry of DuBois Center. The ISC Conference Council decided to set aside a portion of the funds for deferred maintenance and major projects at DuBois Center. Within the next month or two, the sink hole emerged. The timing of these gifts could not have been better! A special thanks to the former members of the Granite City St. Peter Evangelical UCC and the anonymous donor for their critical support.

A SALUTE TO WEEKS #4 and #5

This week we are celebrating DuBois Center 2019 campers and leaders from Week #4 (left) on Facebook, Instagram and during our virtual campfire. Next week, we will be celebrating those from Week #5 (right). Many of the campers were registered and excited about returning this summer... before the health crisis. We MISS YOU and have a bunk with your name on it for next summer! A big thumbs up to our Week #4 Settler, Nature’s Lab, Splash, Outback and Saddle ‘Em Up campers, and to our Week #5 Discovery, Quest, Imagine That, Movin’ & Groovin’, Horsin’ Around, Saddle ‘Em Up and Trekkin’ It campers! If you haven’t already done so, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to see more photos and stay connected.
SIXTY SECONDS of SOLITUDE
Today we share another edition of 60 Seconds of Solitude from DuBois Center. It's often difficult to take time to breathe deeply, relax, and remember that God is always with us. We hope these short videos of scenes from around camp will provide the inspiration needed. Today we are sitting in the Rustic Chapel - this summer, a site of fallow ground. If you really listen, you can almost hear the songs of joy, heart-felt prayers, and words of inspiration, challenge and forgiveness. The Rustic Chapel nestled lakeside among tall oak trees truly is a sacred space. Watch for weekly solitude postings on our website and Facebook page.

VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE
Thursday, July 9
Join Chaplain Windsong (Tarrah Vaupel), DuBois Center staff, volunteers and camp families for another virtual campfire this Thursday at 7 pm. This week's event will be packed with songs, skits, stories and family fun. We hope you'll join us. Watch for details on Facebook and Instagram. The link will be available each Thursday morning, if not before. Timing an issue? Videos are available to view after the initial release, however the chat feature is only available with the initial viewing. If you would like to be a part of the cast, create a video of a goofy skit with your family or share your favorite silly jokes and riddles. Remember to SPEAK LOUDLY! Send videos or written jokes and riddles to our YouTube email address - ddbcprogramoffice@gmail.com. Be sure to keep submissions clean and positive! No put-downs allowed! All items will be reviewed for appropriateness and some may be saved for upcoming editions. Your submission implies consent for DuBois Center to use the submission in items produced and shared by DuBois Center.

JOIN US AT DUBOIS CENTER!
Over the last month, staff have been planning and preparing for the gentle re-opening of DuBois Center to camper families and UCC church members. The week of June 21 we began working with cottage groups from Hoyleton Youth & Family Services’ residential program in Hoyleton. (Watch for details in an upcoming edition of Weekly Connection.) A small work group and a couple of families have been out to meander and/or fish. Now we are ready to widen the circle in as safe a manner as possible. Because our #1 priority is the health and safety of our guest and leaders, additional safety measures and cleaning protocols have been put into practice. All visits and activities must be scheduled in advance and all guests must wear a face covering when there is even a possibility of being within 6’ of someone who is not a family member or not a part of a small “intact” group.

- FAMILY DAYS at DuBois Center: Families and small groups are invited to DuBois Center for some quality time in the outdoors. Activity options will include ones that can be self-led by group members, as well as ones that are led by DuBois Center staff. Staff-led options include archery, creek walks, canoeing, hikes, horseback riding, pontoon boat rides, shelter building and swimming. There will be a charge for all staff-led activities. If you are interested in learning about our bees and their hives, our volunteer beekeepers are offering family visits with the bees - at no charge. Additional child-sized bee suits are on hand - elementary aged children through adults can participate. Self-led activities include hiking or just meandering, fishing, RELAXING, Frisbee golf, 9-Square and some work projects.

- WORK PROJECTS: With reduced maintenance hours and no major mission week in May, the need for willing volunteers is even greater. There are lots of skilled and general projects that need special attention! We can provide most of the tools or workers are welcome to bring their own.

- FAMILY OVERNIGHTS at DuBois Center: Full cottages and sides of cottages will be available to families for overnights, much like guest cabins at lake resorts. Since the cottages do not have areas for food storage, prep or eating, families will need to plan ahead. Give us a call, and we can discuss the options.

- FOOD SERVICE: We are hoping to offer a small menu of “take-out” items in the near future. The details are still in the works. We are thinking some favorite baked items like brownies, cookies and muffins, as well as items like juice, s’more fixings, etc. Fees will be based on the minimum required to cover direct expenses and will vary depending on the activities selected. There will be no charge for self-led days at DuBois. These are a gift to our camper families and the churches that support this ministry throughout the year. For more information, send an email with your areas of interest and availability to
DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org. You may also call us at 618-787-2202, but with limited office hours - emails are great for tracking requests.

**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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**Hoyleton Golf Classic**

Hoyleton Youth and Family continues moving forward and adapting to the changes they face. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 2, 2020 for the Hoyleton Golf Classic at Tamarack. Info will be coming soon, and you can find out more at www.Hoyleton.org. There are sponsorship opportunities, foursomes and, of course, single golfers! The event is always a good time, and they will follow the state of Illinois and CDC guidelines to stay safe and be well.

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**Back to School Drive**

During the month of July, the Back to School Drive will be collecting school supplies for nearly 500 youth! The support from their UCC partners has been outstanding over the years, and they are hopeful you will continue to partner this year.

Please reach out to make accommodations that will meet your needs. Due to COVID19 restrictions, they have also added an Amazon Wish List [here](https://a.co/gUdQyoW) to make it easier for shopping and delivery as well as drop off locations for supply donations at three Auffenberg locations. Please see this flyer for more information or contact the Development Department at Hoyleton by calling 618-688-7094 or emailing adrobisch@hoyleton.org.

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**Mission Co-workers Share About Time of Service on Facebook**

Global Ministries started sharing presentations from mission co-workers on the Global Ministries Facebook page starting last week. The mission co-worker will be present to answer questions and interact with you in the comments. Come learn about the ministries of global partners and some of the ways in which mission co-workers are present with partners around the world. All presentations will go live at 2 pm CDT.

**Schedule:**

- **Thursday, July 9** - Fiyori Kidane presenting on her time in Greece with Perichoresis of the Evangelical Church of Greece
- **Tuesday, July 14** - Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry-Knowles on their time in Lesotho with the Lesotho Evangelical Church
- **Thursday, July 16** - Kahala Cannon on her time in eSwatini with the Council of Swaziland Churches
- **Tuesday, July 21** - Dusty and Kelsey Riebel on their time in Ecuador with FEDICE

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St. John’s Community Care is pleased to announce that they resumed their Medical Equipment Loan Program Monday, June 8 with changes necessitated by the pandemic. They will be open to loan and accept equipment returns and donations on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon. Please call 618-344-5008 before coming to determine if they have the equipment needed and available. They will hold the equipment in your name until the next scheduled day. When coming to pick up equipment, you MUST wear a mask to enter the building. Please be sure it covers your nose and mouth. Ring the bell to the right of the locked glass doors. Click [here](https://stjohnscc.org) for more details and what equipment is available. Contact St. John’s Community Care at 618-344-5008 or email info@stjohnscc.org for more information or to reserve equipment. Your voicemail message will be returned within one business day.

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**Kindercottage is open but has new needs as well as continuing needs which give you an opportunity to help.** Here is a current wish list or you can make a financial donation to cover these items.

1. Masks must be worn by everyone, ages 2 and above. They will accept homemade masks as well as purchased masks.
2. Latex vinyl gloves sizes -small, large and extra large.
3. Shoe coverings, socks, and footie for children ages 1 to adults. Shoes cannot be worn inside the building. Also, when looking for footie or socks, please be sure and get the ones with texture on the bottom to give them some grip on the floor.
4. Nonperishable food items for breakfast, lunch and snacks.
5. Hand sanitizer, bleach, and disinfectant, hand soap.
6. Paper products, Lysol or Clorox (or some other brand) wipes.
7. Baby wipes, Vaseline or diaper rash creme, Infant formula (Similac Pro Advance. Many doctors are placing babies on this formula. Since WIC doesn't pay for it, it's an out of pocket expense which isn't cheap).
8. Construction-minded people to remove and replace a wall. This must be done on a Saturday, so watch for the announcement in their e-newsletters.

Read the entire letter here.

**Help Deaconess Nurse Ministry Keep the Community Safe during the Hot Summer**

During this difficult time, many people they work with, who are low income seniors, adults, children and the homeless, will struggle to stay cool and safe.

With the temperature rising up, they are concerned for the health of those who need help the most. Help keep the low-income seniors, adults, children and homeless individuals safe this summer. Here is how you can help:

1. Pray for people to find a cool place to be during the day.
2. Check on your neighbors. They might be in need! Offer them a cool place to stay and water to drink.
3. **Donate** to their ministry so they can provide the necessary health services.

**What’s Happening at Illinois South Conference…**

**Annual Meeting - October 24, 2020**

Greetings from the Gatherings Team of the UCC Illinois South Conference:

As we all try to plan for future events, we are faced with many questions and considerations as to how we will function as a church for Sunday worship, Christian education programs, special events like funerals and weddings, and for our particular team, how to plan for our Conference annual meeting.

By this time in years past, your church would have received a pre-annual meeting mailing (90 days prior to the annual meeting, as per our by-laws) with a specific agenda of activities and registration information, as well as a reminder to send the names of your conference delegates to the ISC office. As much as the Gatherings Team would like to abide by the by-laws, we are just not able to provide a lot of specific information at this point.

The Covid-19 pandemic certainly threw a monkey wrench into the plans that we had been making since last November. By April we realized that a large, in-person annual meeting was not the best idea. For the safety of our church leaders and pastors, we recommended to the Conference Council that a virtual meeting be considered. The Conference Council determined in May that we would hold a “virtual annual meeting.”

After five months of planning, we had to “throw out the book” and reconfigure a meeting in a way we have never done before. We still have a theme, a guest speaker, and a guest musician. We will still have a business meeting and worship service, but how this is all going to happen is still a work in progress.

At this point, we would like to ask for your support in two specific ways:

We ask for your patience as we put together a safe yet effective annual meeting. It will be held on October 24 with additional opportunities for continuing education and gathering during that weekend. There are still too many “unknowns.” Therefore, we hesitate to share specifics which may change a week later. Please know we will work to keep you updated with our plans. We will send out information as we have more clarity.

If you are still in the process of determining your delegates for annual meeting, we would ask you to consider approaching church members who have a computer (with video capability) and email to serve in this capacity. You may also consider having an annual meeting “watch party” at your church where your delegates can come together to experience annual meeting in a smaller, safer venue and without the travel.

We are deeply grateful for your support of us as we will work to make this annual meeting a meaningful experience for all. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

The Illinois South Conference Gatherings Team

Walt Hart, Chair
Eileen Hoag
Chilang Lawless
Christy Pursell
Rev. Michelle Torigian

Carol Harms
Rev. Shana Johnson
Mimi Llamas
Pastor Jon Tinge
Rev. Andy Wilson

Click [here](#) for a pdf to share with your church delegates.
2020 UCC Stewardship Materials

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." - 1 John 4:7

Materials for your congregation’s 2020 stewardship campaign featuring the theme “Beloved, Love”.
Available in print form or as a digital download, including social media graphic appropriate for Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Full stewardship materials package includes the following:
- Campaign Resources Document that includes:
  - Directions and suggestions for an effective campaign
  - Campaign song and prayer suggestions
  - Letters (ready for editing)
  - Newsletter article (ready for editing)
  - Sermon (ready for editing)
- Theme artwork (formats: PDF | EPS | JPG | PNG)
- Facebook, Twitter and Instagram artwork (formats: PDF | EPS | JPG | PNG)
- Digital copies of all pre-printed items:
  - Poster
  - 4 Sunday bulletin inserts w/ giving chart
  - 4 different Commitment cards
  - Envelope
  - Worship folder
  - Letterhead

$39.95 for full print or digital package.
Printed packs of 50 each of the following items sold separately:
- Bulletin Insert A (5.5” X 8.5”)
- Single Commitment Card (3.5” X 8”)
- Bulletin Insert B (5.5” X 8.5”)
- Double Commitment Card (3.5” X 8”)
- Bulletin Insert C (5.5” X 8.5”)
- Faith-Promise Card (3.5” X 8”)
- Bulletin Insert D (5.5” X 8.5”)
- Time & Talent Pledge Card (3.5” X 8”)
- Letterhead (8.5” X 11”)
- #10 Envelope
- Report/Worship Folder (8.5” x 14 flat)

Additional 17” X 22” posters also sold separately. Click here for more information and to order

Region 5

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; devotion; 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.

Region 5

This summer, Highland Area Christian Ministries’ focus is on collecting school supplies for their clients’ children. Although schools may operate on a non-traditional schedule when August rolls around, they want to be prepared! Here is their wish list:
- Wide rule spiral notebooks
- Composition notebooks
- Wide rule notebook paper (loose leaf)
- Sharpies
- Plastic folders
- Black dry erase markers
- 10-pack washable markers
- Colored pencils
- 3-pack highlighters
- Pencil top erasers
- Quart and gallon bags
- Kleenex
- Elmer’s glue bottle (no school glue)
- Clorox wipes
- K-2 boys and girls backpacks
- Crayola water paint sets

All Regions

Save the Date - ISC Confirmation Retreat
Dates: Fri-Sat, Sept 25-26 // Fri-Sat Oct 9-10
- Like all ISC events, these will only happen if we think we can offer them safely and meet state guidelines.
- We are going with two events instead of one to more easily allow for COVID safe interactions and stay under the 50 person limit. (We will hopefully be in that phase by then.)
- A team will plan the events together, so the events will be similar.
- Capacity will be 40 youth and the appropriate number of chaperones.