Deep Roots
A few weeks ago, as I was out on a walk in some woods by my house, I came across a very large tree which had toppled over. There had been a storm the night before with high winds. While there were other trees with snapped branches, I was intrigued why this particular tree had not weathered the storm. The tree had been completely uprooted and was lying horizontally. When I walked to the base of tree, I could quickly see the reason. Despite the height and circumference, the root system, now visible, was quite shallow.

Seeing this tree, I was reminded of something I read about a mountain in New Hampshire called North Sugarloaf Mountain. With its stunning vistas, this area is a frequented site for hikers. The trails are lined with beautiful trees. However, when a hiker reaches the top of the mountain, they will notice there are fewer trees. Although the US Forest Department has tried for years to plant more trees and foliage on the top of North Sugarloaf Mountain, it has been a failed effort. On top of the mountain, trees cannot put down deep roots because the soil is so rocky. In fact, it has been suggested that there might even be essentially a granite slab under the soil.

Because almost every tree that is planted cannot put down deep roots, the tree's roots will inevitably spread out just under the surface. A tree without a deep root system will not be able to withstand the storms. Because of its lack of stability, high winds will uproot it easily, toppling the tree and exposing the underside of its very shallow root system.

For me, this is a beautiful metaphor for our spiritual lives. In moments of stress, uncertainty, and upheaval, we need to draw from the roots of faith we have put down. Our resiliency, the ability not to be uprooted by the unexpected storms of life, largely depends on the systems of stability we have nurtured. Too often, we do not think about our "root system" until we are in the midst of the storms. Yet, there are ways we can put down deeper roots of resilience to carry us during these times.

Prayer
As people of faith, one of the most essential ways we can build our resiliency is prayer. One of my favorite reminders of the importance of taking time to pray is a quote attributed to the great reformer, Martin Luther. "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." Prayer not only quiets down our minds and spirits, it also connects us with the core of our being, our Creator. Prayer reminds us we are not alone. It also reminds us we are not in charge of the universe. God is. God has a plan and purpose we might not yet see. Prayer is trusting in God's purposes for our lives and all of humanity.

Being connected to others
We are created by God to be in relationship. We need other people to ground us and support us. In this particular moment of our collective history, yes, it is more difficult to be connected to one another, but it is not impossible. Now, more than ever, we need one another. We must continue to invest in our relationships, our connections, and being a part of the communities of faith that nurture and enrich our lives.

Being flexible and realistic
So much has changed and continues to change each day for us. Yet, an important skill to ensure these changes will not topple us over is working to be flexible and realistic. Often this means letting go of what we think "should be" and accepting "what is." It is being able to bend and not break, trusting we are in God's care.

Taking care of yourself
In times of stress, it is essential to go back to the basics. This means caring for the body, mind, and spirit God gave us. Good habits help root us deeper in good physical, emotional, and spiritual shape. Simple things like getting sleep, drinking water, eating healthy food, and moving our bodies can go a long way in building up the stamina and resiliency to face whatever challenges may come.
Being able to see the big picture

When we focus on what is right in front of us, we often miss the big picture. Sometimes a change in perspective is all that is needed to change our thinking, our feelings, and our actions. It is important to remind ourselves that whatever we are facing, this too shall pass. God never abandons us or deserts us. In the hardest of times, God carries us and is working to ensure our future.

In these days of stress, strain, upheaval, and uncertainty, may you continue to put down deep roots of faith. These roots will enable you to remain upright and planted in the plans and purposes God has for you and your future.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Yes, Your UCC Church Qualifies as a 501(c)(3)

During my 6-year tenure with ISC, I have been asked numerous times by numerous churches to provide proof and documentation for 501(c)(3) status. One church recently told me that they researched for 3 weeks before calling into the ISC office. I hated to hear that! So, I want to make sure you know that proof of 501(c)(3) status is as easy as sending an email or making a phone call.

Being a 501(c)(3) means that a nonprofit organization has been approved by the IRS as a federal tax exempt, charitable organization. Churches often need proof of this particular status when they are requesting money from a business for a ministry they support; they want to accept donations through Facebook or PayPal; or someone makes a large donation and the donor desires proof of the charitable status.

The Illinois South Conference and each of our churches have 501(c)(3) status. The National UCC holds the 501(c)(3) status for all the conferences and therefore all of our UCC churches. They act as an umbrella organization for all the UCC churches. That's beneficial for all of us because it means that the National UCC does the paperwork for all of us!

It's important to provide current dates and documents when the request is made, so we suggest asking for this documentation when proof is actually needed. When you need proof of 501(c)(3) status, contact me at 618-420-2608 or cpursell@iscucc.org. Christy Pursell

UNITE THROUGH THE EXTRAORDINARY

A Virtual Gathering - July 25-26, 2020

Although we cannot meet in person at Purdue, your ability to connect and encourage one another does not end. For UCC youth, young adults, and ministry leaders in the immediate pandemic, this gathering will bring us together for important conversations and activity.

We will gather on July 25 and 26 for online service projects (Sat), workshops (Sat) and a worship service (Sun) and hear from these amazing voices:

To read more or register, click here.

Illinois South Conference thanks these pastors for serving Illinois South Conference churches:

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver will end her service as Bridge Pastor at St. Paul UCC in Columbia on August 2, 2020.
Rev. Elizabeth Terrill will end her service as Intentional Interim Pastor at St. John UCC in Valmeyer on July 31, 2020.

Illinois South Conference welcomes these pastors serving in our Conference:

Rev. Steven Boorsma will begin his ministry as the full-time settled pastor of St. John UCC in Valmeyer on August 3.
Rev. Elizabeth Terrill will begin as Intentional Interim Senior Pastor at St. Paul UCC in Columbia on August 3, 2020

We welcome them into active ministry as part of Illinois South Conference.

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.
as individuals to serve 6 year terms as Members At-large to the United Church of Christ Board (UCCB) of Directors, Class of 2027. Your personal knowledge of talented members of your local church is very important to finding the best pool of candidates for consideration for the UCCB. Names are also being solicited from Historically Underrepresented Groups and other entities/organizations within the United Church of Christ. We welcome applications from self-nominated church members as well. Election for nominees selected from the applications submitted will occur during the Thirty-Third General Synod in Kansas City in July of 2021.

Moderator and Assistant Moderator Overview
- Preside at all sessions of the Thirty-Fourth General Synod in 2023;
- Serve as Ex-officio members of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors for a two-year term with voice and with vote; and
- The Assistant Moderator may be considered for elevation to the position of Moderator at the end of their two-year term as Assistant Moderator.

At-Large Members of the UCC Board of Directors
Eleven at-large members will be elected at General Synod 33. In line with UCC bylaws paragraph 223, the nominating committee will ensure that the Board of Directors meets or exceeds the following diversity requirements:
- at least 50 percent persons of color
- at least 50 percent be female
- one-third be persons with ordained ministerial standing or ordained partner standing
- one third be laymen
- one third be laywomen
- at least 20 percent people under the age of 30 at the time of their election.

Further, the Nominating Committee is charged with selecting from a pool of candidates with specific skill sets, professional backgrounds, and life experiences to provide a well-qualified and knowledgeable Board of Directors. With the implementation of the new governance structure, Conferences or other constituencies are no longer guaranteed a member on the Board of Directors. All At-Large Members represent the best interests of the whole Church and do not represent any one Conference or other constituency. Up to three members of any one Conference can serve as Members At-large at any given time.

In reviewing the 11 Board of Directors who are finishing their terms, and in light of our diversity requirements outlined above, the Nominating Committee has a particular need for nominees who are:
- Hispanic, Asian, or represent peoples of color or other ethnicities;
- Are under the age of 60, with a particular need for leaders younger than 30; and/or
- Have skill sets in the finance, business, philanthropy and legal fields.

Please don't overlook our second-career clergy when looking for these skill sets. In the recent past the work of the committee has been greatly aided when several clergy candidates were found to have advanced degrees in any number of disciples and careers prior to entering the ministry.

Candidates should complete and return the electronic nominating form, found here. Completion of this form also constitutes consent to a criminal background check (as stated in the UCC Safe Church Policy) and other background checks related to employment and education. The submission of the form also represents the candidate's agreement for their biographical information to be published with the materials for General Synod delegate review. The Nominating Committee needs the candidates to be aware that, should they be elected, they will be approached for an annual gift to the United Church of Christ above their current level of giving.

UCC Board candidates will want to know:
- The Board of Directors meets twice a year, in the spring and fall. Meetings are nearly always held in Cleveland, Ohio.
- The Board of Directors also meets during the General Synod, in the host city, for the full duration. That meeting begins on a Thursday and ends with the close of Synod the following Tuesday evening.
- There will also be conference calls and webinars at other times during the six-year term.
- Members of the Board of Directors are not paid. Travel, housing, and meals are provided through the budget of the Board of Directors and all reasonable out-of-pocket travel expenses, such as ground transportation, airport parking and gratuities, are reimbursed following each meeting.

Please carefully review the requests of the Committee and select up to four of your members for application consideration. Feel free to share the contents of this letter with them and encourage them to access the link and complete the nomination form, indicating that you are nominating them.

It is important to know that all nominees submitted by Local Pastors should be first vetted by your Conference Minister. The nominee application form will also ask the nominee to include the name of the Conference Minister.

Thank you for all of your efforts in assuring the composition of a truly extraordinary governing body.

With gratitude for your partnership in our work and ministry,
Jean Avison, Chair
General Synod Nominating Committee
This program is designed and structured to meet the unique needs of seminary and non-seminary trained ministry candidates looking for more comprehensive training:

- Meets 3 evenings a month via 3-hour Zoom meetings to enable ministry candidates to continue current employment as they sharpen pastoral care skills
- Structured to enable participants to reflect on current parish/ministry setting experience

- One to one supervision once a month
- Program runs September through May
- Planned to give participants a balance between instruction and personal reflection

Areas Addressed:

- Pastoral Care Skills in the Congregational Setting
- Human Development, Stages of Life and Faith, and Impact on Ministry Practices
- Family and Congregational Dynamics and Systems
- Pastoral Care and Ritual
- Mental Health Wholeness and Crisis in the Congregation and in the Professional
- The Basics of Mental Illness and Related Symptoms

By the end of the program, the participant will be able to:

- Utilize interpersonal skills in professional and personal functioning
- Exercise a basic understanding of mental illness and symptoms
- Offer insightful pastoral support to congregants and make effective referrals
- Practice proven strategies for self-care and wholeness
- Identify and implement healthy congregational dynamics and interactions
- Understand the role of human development in pastoral and congregational care
- Identify personal leadership assets and growing edges
- Previous graduates were able to have their denomination accept CPM as meeting the requirements for CPE

See flyer for more information. Click here for application form.

Fall Stewardship Materials Available

Three Great Loves expresses the core commitments of the United Church of Christ as we live out Jesus’ call to share God's love. Across our Christian movement, we embody God's love in three ways:

- Love of Children
- Love of Neighbor
- Love of Creation

The ways we share God's love in any one congregation may not look the same as the ways another United Church of Christ congregation witnesses to God's love. Our priorities may differ. But we’re united in a shared commitment to be God's hands and feet in making a more just world for all.

The Three Great Loves Stewardship Materials help congregations tell their story of expressing God's love while making a request for financial support.

Available from UCC Resources, this year's expanded resources provide all that a pastor and leaders need to run an effective campaign:

- Bulletin Inserts with compelling stories of how we love in the UCC and a worship folder for use each week.
- Pledge cards in a variety of formats (single commitment, double commitment, etc).
- Graphics for use on websites and to share via social media platforms, plus letterhead and envelopes for mailings.
- Most importantly: Campaign Resources such as a committee calendar, templates for letters, directions for testimonials, and worship resources all to help your campaign tell the story of your congregation’s love.

Order your materials here.

UCC launches "Recovering Hope," emotional care in COVID-19

Disasters are stressful for survivors and caregivers alike, including the pastors and chaplains to whom survivors turn for spiritual and practical help. The COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. This long-running disaster is taking an enormous emotional toll on millions of people, sparing no one as they and those around them suffer sickness and death, isolation and loss of community and livelihoods.

In response, a multidisciplinary United Church of Christ team is launching "Recovering Hope," which is rolling out resources for emotional and spiritual care to pastors, chaplains and other church leaders, congregants, vulnerable communities and beyond.

"Recovering Hope" is offering resources, indexed here in a variety of formats, including virtual workshops, referrals to vetted providers, and other easily accessible resources from the UCC and beyond.

The team is working in close contact with UCC conference ministers and disaster coordinators to complement, not duplicate, the support services they are providing to their pastors, chaplains and churches.
CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MIONES 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 dinfo@duboiscenter.org.
To speak with the Conference Minister, contact Rev. Shana Johnson at sjohnson@iscucc.org or 618-882-8247.

A SALUTE TO WEEK #6 and all our 2019 STAFF and VOLUNTEERS!
This week on Facebook, Instagram and during our virtual campfire, we are celebrating DuBois Center 2019 campers and leaders from Week #6, as well as our staff and volunteers from throughout the summer! We MISS EVERYONE who would have made DuBois Center come to life this summer. We have a bunk or apron or lifeguard tube reserved for you and hope you'll make plans now to meet back at DBC next summer! A big thumbs up to our Girl Power and Pony Express campers, and all the amazing staff and volunteers who make camp possible! If you haven't already done so, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to see more photos and stay connected.

HOYLETON DAYS at DuBOIS
This is week #5 for Hoyleton Days at DuBois Center. During the pandemic, the cottages at the residential program in Hoyleton have remained "in-tact." In an effort to maintain the safest environment possible, the youth living in each specific cottage have only interacted with their cottage-mates and staff. This means no larger groups for summer school or sports or even distanced recreational activities. Hoyleton Youth & Family Services and DuBois Center teamed up to provide off-campus time for these young people - to get them out of the house and into nature. Tuesday through Thursday, a different cottage group comes to DuBois Center for a morning of quality time in the outdoors. Fishing, pontoon boating, swimming, tree golf and Kwik Kricket have all been favorites. But the real crowd pleaser is Pony Time! During the first two-week rotation, youth petted, fed and "groomed" the horses before using one as a canvas and painting on it. One cottage group was having so much fun that they spent extra time at the barn and helped the staff wash the horses after their adventure with color. During the second rotation, youth paired with adults and led their horses through an obstacle course - around the poles and barrels in the arena. The event concluded with the horses bobbing for apples in a big tub of water. These first two rotations helped the youth to feel more comfortable around the horses in preparation for the third rotation, which includes actual riding. In past years, this progression of activities has helped to ensure a higher success rate when it's time to mount up and ride. Staff from DuBois Center and Hoyleton work together to provide this experience. Three staff from Hoyleton even jumped into the lake fully clothed - because they didn't come with swim gear - to encourage the youth and enjoy the refreshing water. Rest assured that our staff are doing everything possible to be and stay safe. Face coverings and distancing are the norm, and strict cleaning protocols are in place. Due to privacy and permission requirements, no photos are included with this article. We hope to have some soon.

Do we know for certain that on Sunday, October 4 we will be able to throw open the gates and welcome guests, vendors and volunteers to Fall Festival 2020? Sadly, the answer is NO. There is no way to know this far out if large gatherings will be safe to offer. We all hope and pray that our communities will help to control the spread of COVID-19, but we can't predict the future or the behavior of our friends and neighbors, much less strangers. The date is reserved and volunteers are beginning their preparations. No commitment of funds is needed until early September, so for now we wait and prepare and pray. Any word of postponement will come approximately six weeks in advance of the event. This is a short time frame for final planning and preparations, so be thinking NOW how you might be able to assist.
SIXTY SECONDS of SOLITUDE
Today’s edition of 60 Seconds of Solitude from DuBois Center features the bigger lake in main camp. This video was taken from the dock at Oak Lodge. Water is one of the basic elements of God’s creation and is essential for life. Lakes, oceans, creeks - for many they have a calming effect. We encourage you to take sixty seconds to relax your shoulders, breathe deeply, gaze upon the waters and remember that the God who created renewing waters is with us always. Watch for weekly solitude postings on our website and Facebook page.

FINAL VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE
Thursday, July 23
Join DuBois Center staff, volunteers and camp families on Thursday at 7pm for our final virtual campfire of the season. Where has summer gone?! This week's event will again be packed with songs, skits, stories and even more family fun. We hope you'll join us. Watch for details on Facebook and Instagram. The link will be available on 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 premier viewing.

VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE – RERUNS
If you missed any of our DuBois Center virtual campfires - FEAR NOT! They are still available for viewing, just without the chat feature. Need some fresh, fun, family-friendly activities? Watch from the comfort of your sofa or around a campfire in the backyard. Make popcorn or roast s'mores. Tune in and sing along, laugh, search for familiar faces, and listen to words of inspiration and challenge. Click below for the different editions.

June 11 featuring chaplains Curly & Peanut and our 2019 campers from week #1
June 18 featuring chaplains Lonestar & Sunkist and our 2019 campers from week #3
June 25 featuring Pastor Skippy, our graduating seniors and our 2019 campers from week #2
July 9 featuring Chaplain Windsong and our 2019 campers from week #4
July 16 featuring Pastor Sunny and our 2019 campers from week #5

MYSTERY CLEANING CREW
Ever wish for a cleaning crew that would quietly and quickly take care of your home - at no cost? We think we may have just such an anomaly at DuBois Center. Due to uncertain finances and difficulties finding a new lake treatment contractor, the decision was made to either not treat the lake this summer or significantly limit the number of treatments. As usual in late spring, algae growth was evident; along the shoreline, it was reaching out about eight feet in places. Surprisingly the algae never grew much beyond that. The lake did “turn over” a time or two, but still there is typically always algae, and now - in the heat of the summer - there is almost none. Yes, that's right - almost none! On closer inspection, what we did find was a multitude of Bryozoa, a mysterious moss animal. We first noticed these creatures a couple summers ago and did some initial research then. We learned that they are not toxic, venomous or harmful to humans. They do have an “ick” factor because they appear to be gelatinous blobs and attach themselves to docks and ladders. The biggest issue, of which we are aware, is their tendency to occasionally clog underwater screens or drainage pipes - much like algae and mushy leaves. Bryozoa are tiny colony animals, which means they live in community with each other - sounds very camp-like! Thousands of individual moss animals, typically only .02 inches in length, make up the one blob pictured here. Here's the mystery cleaning connection - they have little "arms or fingers" with tentacles that strain food particles out of the water and in doing so, help to clean our lake water. Are they the reason for our nearly algae-free lake? We don't know for certain, but if not - it is a strange coincidence.

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!

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.
**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 (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.

**What You Should Expect from Your Church’s Insurance Company and Introduction to Insurance Board**
We know you have a lot of options when it comes to choosing the right financial solutions and resources including church insurance. Here are some points to consider:
- **A Program that is Tailored to Churches and Affiliated Ministries**
- **A Program that Understands Your Denomination and is a Recognized Financial Ministry of the United Church of Christ**
- **A program that Provides Loss Prevention Resources**
Read in depth information about these three point here.

If you missed the Insurance Board's webcast "Abuse Prevention: Creating a Safe Environment", the recorded webcast is here. This webcast unveils our new SAFECONDUCT™ Abuse Prevention page and C.A.S.E. (Creating A Safe Environment) training module. C.A.S.E. is a new state of the art, research-based, facilitator-led, video-based training that provides practical solutions to navigate the many "gray areas" that can emerge day-to-day at churches. This training, exclusive for Insurance Board Policyholders, offers churches the opportunity to choose a facilitator within their ministry to lead a guided training program for others within their organization to assist in the prevention of organizational abuse.

Our new abuse prevention page now has a direct link to the Praesidium page for registration to conduct background checks/screening, utilize the self-assessment tool (Know Your Score), and participate in the on-line abuse prevention training resources. Check out the new page here. If you have questions, contact LossControl@insuranceboard.org or call Pat Stein at 309-530-4600 or Shawn Polzin at 309-660-1818.

St. John's Community Care will host a virtual Stress Busting Session for 9 Mondays beginning on Monday, July 27 from 10 am to 11:30 am (skipping September 7 due to holiday). The sessions are designed to help families cope when they are caring for a loved one with dementia and/or aging and learn new strategies of caring for themselves and their loved one.

Contact 618-344-5008 or email Gail at gshaw@stjohnscc.org.

**Memory Cafe (Zoom Session) to be held online the first Thursday of each month from 11 am - 12 pm beginning August 6.**
Join us for a morning of conversation and activities to start your day off right. It will be led by a professional who understands the challenges memory loss causes, both for the person directly and their loved one. No charge to attend. If you would like to join the Zoom Memory Cafe group meeting online, please email Gail at gshaw@stjohnscc.org. She will send you the instructions and invitation to join the meeting. For more information, call 618-344-5008. Dates are Aug 6; Sept 3; Oct 1; Nov 5; Dec 3.

**Kinder cottage**
Kinder cottage 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...

Job Opportunity: St. Peter UCC in Lenzburg is looking for an organist starting at the 10 am worship service on the first Sunday in September. Contact the office at 618-475-2557 or stpeterlenzburg@htc.net.

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 618-635-2366.

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. 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. However, we are just not able to provide a lot of specific information at this point.

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 Carol Harms Eileen Hoag Rev. Shana Johnson Chilang Lawless
Mimi Llamas Christy Pursell Pastor Jon Tinge Rev. Michelle Torigian Rev. Andy Wilson
Click here for a pdf to share with your church delegates.

Update from the Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA) Justice and Witness Team
● The group encourages Illinois congregations to look at the resources provided through The Chicagoland Trauma Informed Congregations Network:
● The team voted to endorse the Fair Tax Amendment and take actions to encourage the member congregations and the communities they serve and in which they live in to get educated and vote on the proposal. Find out more information on the movement to rebuild our state.
● The team voted to support the principles for bail reform stated by the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice.