Peacel Rally 2020
The ISC Justice and Witness Team presented a Peace Rally at the ISC office in Highland last Saturday, July 25 from 10 am to 12 pm. Although the turnout was less than expected, the program and heartfelt messages were moving and reflected the healing that is hoped for throughout the United States and the world. People were requested to wear masks and practice social-distancing.

Participants had an opportunity to publicly lament things that tormented their souls, such as the discord in our country, the possibility of young black sons, grandsons and brothers being killed, and removing old records that have been playing in our heads that perpetuate the systemic racism that our country was founded upon.

The group held a time of silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to remind us of the time that George Floyd was held without breath and to think about the problems surrounding the system. As names of fallen black brothers and sisters were called a bell was rung to honor their lives.

Barbara VanAusdall and Dave Shanks performed and led songs that reminded us of the peace we all strive for and the struggle to reach that peace.

It was a beautiful, public declaration of the Illinois South Conference’s desire to bring peace and justice to all communities.

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 Aug 2 - Aug 8, 2020
Churches & Pastors
- Dupo Christ UCC, Rev. Todd (Suzanne) Mushaney
- Dupo First Congregational UCC, Rev. Dr. Robert E. (Jay) Lee
The Cornerstone Fund
Presents a Free Webinar
"A Capital Campaign in COVID-19?!

Is this even possible?! Join them on Monday, August 31 at 1 pm for a FREE, one-hour webinar to discuss this question. Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ (Chicago) and Rev. Michael W. Caine of Old First UCC (Philadelphia) will be featured as well as Rev. Kent Siladi, the National Setting's new Director of Philanthropy, and Jill White, a Regional Mission Interpreter with the UCC Church Building & Loan Fund. Maria C. Coyne, the Cornerstone Fund's President & CEO, will serve as moderator. Both local church leaders and thought leaders in faith-based giving will sit down to discuss how to even in the face of a pandemic-continue to focus on the capital needs of a congregation and how the definition of capital is expanding, from technology infrastructure to HVAC systems and air filtration, to building modifications and more. The webinar is FREE, but registration is REQUIRED.

The Illinois HIV Integrated Planning Council is accepting applications for 2021 membership now through September 15. Based on their membership gap analysis, representation from the following are priorities for 2021 IHIPC membership:

- A community-based organization directly-funded by CDC for High Impact Prevention (HIP)
- MSM, especially those who are Black or Hispanic
- Hispanic HRH
- Black or Hispanic youth, ages 18-24
- Region 5 (highest priority)
- Regions 2 and 7 (second priority)

Retired Pastor
- Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter, Hamel, IL, who are also celebrating their wedding anniversary today.

People with Life Concerns
- Pray for the family of Charles Southcombe as they mourn his death. Charles was the father of Rev. Michael (Sue) Southcombe, Interim Pastor for St. Paul UCC in Waterloo and a member of the ISC Conference Council. He has also served as Parliamentarian at several ISC Annual Meetings. The funeral was today in Morris, Illinois. Cards may be sent to 1 Woods Ln., East Alton, IL 62024. Click here for the complete obituary.
- Keep all pastors in your prayers as they continue to provide spiritual support and creative services during this unprecedented time.
- Pray for the people of the United States as we work towards equality and civility for us all.
- Pray for the healthcare workers and first responders who have put their lives on the line to protect us.
- Special prayers for the families who are dealing with loved ones who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are not able to visit them in person for support. Give strength to the sick and to those who are struggling with separation.
- 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
● Regions 1, 4, and 6 (third priority)
Click here for more information and here for the application, which will give you definitions and a map of the regions. Contact Marleigh Andrews-Conrad at 217-557-3305 or Marleigh.andrews-conrad@illinois.gov.

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.)

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.
• 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](#).

---

**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](mailto: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](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org).

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at [lschuepbach@iscucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:jriechmann@iscucc.org).

For DuBois Center, contact Shirley Asmussen at 618-787-2202 or [dcinfo@duboiscenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@duboiscenter.org).

To speak with the Conference Minister, contact Rev. Shana Johnson at [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org) or 618-882-8247.

---

**DuBois Center News**

---

**GRATITUDE IS FLOWING!**

Just like water, our gratitude is flowing! Even though there are few people at DuBois Center these days, each time a staff member or volunteer walks or drives across the dam, they can't help but breathe a bit easier. The new spill pipe is working wonderfully, and the back side of the dam, where an 80’ by 125’ area was cleared of trees and brush, is filling in nicely. Overall, the lake water level was raised by six inches. This doesn't seem like much, but it lowers the water temperature and helps to maintain a larger swim area during dry summers. A deeper and cooler lake helps reduce unwanted plant life; a larger enclosed swim area can handle more people safely and is... just more fun!

Please help us in extending a HUGE THANKS to all the churches, organizations and individuals who supported this project through Operation Shimmer! We would like to share a special word of thanks to Evangelical UCC in Highland for their leadership gift of $30,000. Their inspiring donation ensured that we would be able to move ahead with this project in a timely manner.

**Gifts of $10,000 or more**

Evangelical UCC, Highland

**Gifts of $5000 - $9999**

DuBois Center Auxiliary Boosters
St. John UCC Happy Quilters & general church, Mascoutah

**Gifts of $1000 - $4999**

Dennis Backstrom & Elaine Chapman
Virginia Iich
Friedens UCC, Irvington
St. Jacob UCC Young Adults, St. Jacob
St. John UCC, Granite City
St. Paul UCC, Belleville
St. Paul UCC, Waterloo
St. Peter's UCC Women's Guild & Outreach Committee, Okawville
Zion UCC, Addieville

**Gifts of $500 - $999**

Brenda Baum
St. John's UCC, Johannisburg
St. John UCC Sunday School, Summerfield
St. Peter UCC, Centralia

**Gifts of $499 or under**

Concordia UCC, Belleville
Candace Doelling
Eunice Hediger

Hank & Laurie Henderson
Ivan & Vivian Horn
Richard Schmidt

St. John UCC, Trenton
St. Mark's UCC, DuBois
St. Paul UCC, Nashville

Anthony Ucci
EMBRACE A SPACE
DuBois Center is kicking off a new initiative - Embrace a Space. Individuals, families and groups are invited to make a commitment to a space at DuBois Center and return throughout the length of the commitment to work on that plot of earth, building or area of camp. The possibilities are nearly endless. Consider tending a patch of native plants, maintaining a hiking trail or weeding the labyrinth. Sign-up for the windows and screens in Oak Lodge; they need washing at least once a year. Painting - you can update one building (a cottage) or a series of them (the cabins in Fish Ridge), and there are always sections of fence or decking that need attention. Over the decades, volunteers have been a significant piece of DuBois Center's ministry. With limited maintenance hours in general, and especially during the COVID-19 shut-down, there is a significant need for willing and able workers. Currently we have projects for individuals, family groups and small teams that agree to follow camp rules related to wearing masks and practicing good physical distancing. For more information, contact Shirley at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

SIXTY SECONDS of SOLITUDE
Today's edition of 60 Seconds of Solitude features snapshots of God's creation at DuBois Center. The video is a series of photographs taken by Jason Petry on a Sunday stroll. Enjoy the summer wildflowers, bees and bugs, and even a soaring hawk. During at least one of your viewings, try to sit back, relax your shoulders and breathe deeply. Meditate on the vast expanse and the intricate details of God's creation. Centuries ago, Martin Luther wrote, "God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars." These words are just as true today. Watch for weekly solitude postings on our website and Facebook page.

VIRTUAL CAMPFIRE RERUNS
If you missed any of the DuBois Center virtual campfires, they are available for viewing, without the chat feature. 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
- **July 23** featuring staff, volunteers and camp families and packed with songs, skits, stories and family fun.

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 points 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.

Deaconess Foundation has many ways to engage with the community, advocate for change and invest in the lives of children. Deaconess is pleased to have supported the Close the Workhouse Campaign with funding through their Responsive Grants program, space as a Center-Based Initiative and our voice as an institutional advocate. We continue to learn from the campaign's leaders (Action St. Louis, ArchCity Defenders and The Bail Project) and its lessons for our community.

The most significant lesson this campaign has illuminated is that sustained public education, followed by mobilization and democratic action can generate, allocate and reallocate public resources for the benefit of children and families. With this success in mind, we are affirmed in our commitment to invest in the power of people in communities to advocate, organize and mobilize for change.

Their newsletter highlights many ways to engage, advocate and invest in the lives of children. If you would like to see the entire monthly e-newsletter to find out more of the ways you can get involved, click here.

Men and women who serve as family caregivers to loved ones struggling with dementia or Alzheimer's can be challenged by stress which can cause depression or anxiety. A caregiver who is suffering from the added stress may not be at their best to care for themselves or their loved one. With your help, we can spread the
word that St. John's Community Care can support them on their journey that no one should take alone. Here are a few programs you can suggest to friends or neighbors who serve as caregivers.

- **On Line - Stress Busting Program**
- **On Line Support Groups** Offered monthly - Family Caregivers Support Group or Alzheimer's Support Group
- **On Line - Memory Cafe Group** Offered monthly
- **In Person - BRAIN WAVE Early Memory Loss Program**
- **In Person - Savvy Caregiving**

St. John's Community Care is currently offering in-person and on-line support and programs for family caregivers at no charge using Zoom. For more information, call Gail Shaw at 618-344-5008.

---

**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.

---

**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 revdjkattins@gmail.com or 618-635-2386.

---

**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                                    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.

### 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.