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 uncertainty.

**Waterloo St. Paul UCC Shows Its Spirit**

Waterloo St. Paul UCC's Director of Faith Formation, Jill Mayer, along with her husband Andy Mayer and their daughters Arabella, Juliana and Madeline, ran a lemonade stand last week with proceeds going to Elsa Wiemerslage's family. Elsa and her mother, Adrienne, are both staying in Children's Hospital as Elsa prepares for another bone marrow transplant in her fight against leukemia. The lemonade stand raised $700! The church has supported the family in other ways as well, with meals for dad, Kevin, and Elsa's younger sister and brother, Claire and Eli, along with other fundraising efforts.

When the Mayers went to Children's for a checkup on Juliana's foot, they were able to offer support to Elsa from the street across from her window. Other families from the church have also held their own mini-rallies for Elsa to see.

A few months ago, Pastor Mike gave members a choice of him shaving his head, dying his hair orange or conducting a worship service wearing a T-Rex costume. They voted with their donations of money designated for the family. The T-Rex costume won hands down—short arms up. Last Sunday, Rally Day, at the outdoor service, he wore the T-Rex costume, sort of a hazmat suit, while the kids brought their backpacks and laptops forward for a blessing.

Atta St. Paul UCC girls and boys for your creativity and generosity.

*If you know of stories that show people being the church, please send it to [ISCspirit@iscucc.org](mailto:ISCspirit@iscucc.org). Share the stories that are warming your heart. #ISCspirit.*

**Ferguson Buying Blitzes**

Dear Friends in Ministry,

As we did a few years ago, Marine UCC invites you to a series of three "Ferguson Buying Blitzes" to help the businesses of that community recover from recent rioting. We will meet at 10:00 am on three alternating Saturdays, August 29, Sept. 12 and Sept. 26. Our meeting place will be at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. Their pastor emiritus, Alonzo Adams, has agreed to allow us to meet there. The address is 1 N. Dade Street in Ferguson. The idea is to spread out and spend money in the businesses of the area. Hope to see you! Thanks.

Rev. Phil Kershner

**Ordinary Vacation**

Every year, I take my two grandkids on a short vacation. As a general rule, we head to some area where we can visit the usual tourist attractions for that area. We've seen the Chicago bean; the corner where 4 states, Arizona - Utah - Colorado - New Mexico, meet; New York City; Mt. Rushmore; Yellowstone; Baton Rouge and more. This year was different! The oldest had his driver's permit, and this was our chance for a "road trip." Of course, the highest priority was to keep everyone safe along the way, while maintaining our tradition...
of vacationing together. We had a plan - drive up to Hannibal, Missouri and then across to St. Joseph, Missouri by way of Route 36, the American Genius Highway. Like all of us, you may not have heard of this highway. Famous people like Walt Disney, J.C. Penney, Jesse James, and Mark Twain were born in towns, with populations ranging from 8 - 8,000, that border the highway. It was perfect for the year we needed to stay away from crowds. Airbnb's took us to a farmhouse for two nights and a town of 70 people for five. Perfect.

I called it our "ordinary" vacation because we did ordinary things. We ate in parks along the way or cooked our own meals. We saw a few museums, where maybe 7 people were in the building with us. We hiked to two covered bridges; saw the first sliced bread machine; played cards and other games; star gazed with a phone app; searched for a comet; watched the sunset while eating popsicles; watched hummingbirds; and sat on the porch swing talking. I was pleasantly surprised that they enjoyed it and thanked me every evening for another good day.

I had worried that this type of vacation may not be up to their standards of vacationing. I had no great touristy thing scheduled that everyone would have wanted to see. In reality, it turned out to be about spending time together. I was reminded that good things can come from a pandemic that jolts us off of our normal way of doing things. There is no iron-clad, undeniable way of living. We must find a way to live in love, despite the circumstances that knock us off of our normal routines. Or perhaps we are knocked off of our norm so that we can find new ways to live in love.

"For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline." - 2 Timothy 1:7.

Blessings, Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator

What is Planned Giving?

Planned Giving allows you to honor the positive impact that the Illinois South Conference and the United Church of Christ (UCC) has brought to you, your family and community, as well as the world in your estate plans through giving vehicles such as bequests, charitable remainder trusts, and charitable gift annuities. You can designate your local church, the Illinois South Conference, the National Ministries of the UCC, affiliated UCC ministries like CHHSM, or all the above. Your legacy gift will support the future of the UCC and ensure that its mission to be United in Christ's love remains strong.

Download the Illinois South Conference Estate Planning Record.

The Challenge

Eden Theological Seminary challenges you, our Eden family, to encourage prospective students to consider Eden for this fall.

The time has never been better. Half price tuition this year. Application process expedited. Fees waived.

It has been a busy summer in ministry and mission for all of us. As the COVID 19 health crisis has gripped our world, churches and organizations have had to adapt. At Eden, we have noticed and celebrated the ways in which Eden alumni and friends have been innovating in worship, justice witness, faith formation, and compassion to continue in ministry while keeping people safe. At Eden we have no less adapted - building an entirely online schedule for fall 2020 for our vibrant community of learning and faith. In addition to a fully online course and contextual education schedule, faculty and staff have prepared for community life structured with many opportunities to engage in chapel worship, student cabinet leadership, supplementary learning and formation activities (weekly forums held by our Dean of Students in self-care, ministry formation, etc.), networking events, social events, and social justice and community engagement.

If there were ever a time to engage at Eden - it's now.

● Tuition is half price
● Application fees are waived (with code: "IamEden")
Schedule is accessible (online and flexible for work and family life)
Contextual Education has adapted to virtual learning - innovate in ministry with trained supervisors and Eden faculty (many placements offer $400 per month)
Student satisfaction is high (spring 2020 on-line evaluations show Eden students are highly satisfied with the new format)
Faculty and staff are excited and engaged
The world needs the church and its ministry more than ever, and vital/well educated/trained leaders to serve
Connect with Eden Admissions Staff, 314-918-2642, or email EdenAdmissions@eden.edu.

Have You Got Your “Zoom” On?
Because of the COVID-19 requirements for keeping people safe, the Annual Meeting for Illinois South Conference will be held virtually using a zoom platform. The Conference Gatherings Team highly recommends that your church and your delegates practice with the Zoom software to be prepared for Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2020.
In the meantime when choosing the delegates for your church, consider asking church members who have a computer (with video capability) and email to serve in this capacity. To make it easier for your delegates, you may host a “watch party” at your church for your delegates and/or church visitors as a private group to experience annual meeting in a smaller, safer venue with technology provided by your church. This is a time for creativity that will serve your delegates and Illinois South Conference.

Global Ministries invites you to participate in the third annual Festival of Stories!
Global Ministries is excited to share and celebrate your stories of supporting God’s global mission during the third annual Festival of Stories! Your story of providing resources for Global Ministries through special and creative giving could be an inspiration for others to get involved.
Throughout the month of August, Global Ministries is collecting stories and will share them in September. This year, we would love to hear if you have chosen to raise funds for global partners virtually as many in-person events are not taking place. Partners around the world are responding to the pandemic and new challenges caused by the pandemic, and your creativity and support for the work of global partners is making a difference!
Read a few stories of groups who have gone above-and-beyond to support the work of Global Ministries and global partners. Stories of creative fundraising for the work of Global Ministries and global partners can be found here. Share your story today by sending an email to gifts@dom.disciples.org. Photos and videos of these special efforts are welcome and appreciated as well.

3 Great Loves is the UCC-wide mission initiative, telling the story of how we live out God’s love through the lens of 3 Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation. For sharing the stories of how we, as a united church, live out God’s love in missional, measurable and meaningful ways and to see ideas from other churches, please visit 3greatloves.org. If you decide to share your story, be sure to include pictures and videos, too!

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.
Farmers & Merchants Bank
A special thanks to our local bank for a gift and the recognition of the importance of DuBois Center’s ministry. Even though most DuBois Center funds are housed with ISC funds in FCB Banks, we do keep a small account with this community institution. It’s used for cash received at camp, stocking our cash boxes for Fall Festival and Schnuck’s script payments. One of the biggest benefits, though, is having a friendly, local bank where our international summer staff can easily cash their checks. Karianne Schnitker from the bank wrote, “We are so very sorry this pandemic has affected business at DuBois Center. We know how hard your group works to give area youth the experience of a lifetime through your summer camp program. It really is a shame these couldn’t continue like normal. Please accept our $2,000 donation to help defray some of the lost revenue. We knew your organization would put this money to good use.” The bank received a grant from Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago due to the COVID-19 situation. This grant enabled them to distribute funds to a variety of groups that are enduring hardships. THANKS Farmers & Merchants Bank for being such a good neighbor!

HOYLETON DAYS at DuBOIS
Earlier this month, we shared the joys of working with young people and staff from the Hoyleton Youth & Family Services at DuBois Center. We led activities with small intact cottage groups from the residential program in Hoyleton and were able to provide a great outdoor escape for them. Fishing, riding on a pontoon boat, playing games, swimming, enjoying a hayride, and hanging out with the horses were all part of the fun. We worked with Hoyleton leadership and the Washington County Health Department to develop a plan for the safe implementation of the program. Due to privacy and permission requirements, only a few photos are available to share. ENJOY!

YOUR TRASH, OUR TREASURE
Before storing your yard tools at the end of summer gardening season, it might be good to take stock of just what has accumulated over the years - 4 trowels, 7 kneeling pads, 3 hoes, etc. Amazing - isn't it?! Are there extras that are no longer needed to care for your garden? If yes, please consider donating them to DuBois Center. We have a random hand tool or two, but not enough to accommodate work projects for family groups, confirmation classes, scout troops, or other willing volunteers. We do have lots of full-sized rakes and shovels, but more tools specifically for garden work - planting, weeding and pruning - are needed. Think trowels, cultivators, hand weeders, hoes, small pruners and shrub rakes. Contact DuBois Center for more information at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202, or consider a leisurely drive to DuBois, Illinois. Tools can be left on the front porch of the office. Thank you!

As announced earlier this month, the annual DuBois Center Fall Festival has been postponed until the first Sunday in October 2021. This decision was made after careful and deliberate consideration by the ISC Conference Council and Outdoor Ministries Team (OMT). As you are hopefully aware, our first priority is the health and safety of our campers, guests and staff. As COVID-19 cases rise steadily throughout Washington county, our region and across the nation, it is clear that to proceed with this event is not the cautious or sensible approach. The amount of nearly constant disinfecting, crowd control and monitoring that would be required for a “safe” event, is not feasible. THANKS to everyone who has already invested time and energy in this event. We are looking forward to celebrating together again in 2021.

HEAVY WINDS & RAIN
On Monday, August 10, DuBois Center, like many areas in the Midwest, was hit with heavy winds and rain. The worst part of the storm lasted for a full 20-30 minutes. We only lost power for a moment, unlike the town of Du Bois where it took 24-36 hours for service to be restored for many. Miraculously, here at camp, there appears to be no major damage to any buildings or facilities. In addition, the bees are buzzing and their hives appear untouched. The horses were in the Deer Run pasture - likely one of the safest places to be - and are doing well. There is an uprooted tree gently leaning...
onto the roof of Coveside cottage. The chapel in Main Camp has much less shade now, but the benches are mostly intact. A number of roads and paths were blocked by debris, and we lost a number of live trees and large branches. Oddly, most of the standing dead trees seem to have weathered the storm. In this situation, the lack of leafy branches to catch the wind was a good thing. Staff and volunteers have been slowly working on clean-up, but there is still much to be done. Tri-County, our electric provider, has been contacted to remove trees and branches that threaten their power lines, and we have a call into a professional for the tree on the Coveside roof and a couple other precarious issues. If you are a skilled chain saw operator and own your own equipment, or you have the time and energy to move branches or leaf litter, we would welcome your help. Contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202 for more information.

**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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**Deckness Nurse Ministry invites you to become a member of the Healthy Impact Society.**

The Healthy Impact Society is a monthly giving program for people that are committed to improving population health for all in St. Louis. For as little as $10.50 per month, Society Members can provide our faith community nurses with the tools they need to administer important health screenings, tests, education and other supportive services to low-income adults, seniors and families. Find out more. Review the Deaconess Nurse Ministry 2019 Annual Report.

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**Global Ministries has received over $4,000 from Goodsearch and Goodshop**

GoodSearch is a search engine that donates a portion of its income from advertisements to charities. When you sign up for GoodSearch it will show that you are supporting "Global Ministries - Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ." Additionally, you can support "Global Ministries - Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ" as you shop online through GoodShop, which donates up to 20% of your online purchases to the work of Global Ministries. Global Ministries is grateful for the more than $4,000 received by taking these simple steps! To learn how to use GoodSearch and GoodShop click here.

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**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.

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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.

**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 adrobsch@hoyleton.org.
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.

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.

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.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

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<td><strong>Job Opportunity:</strong> 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 <a href="mailto:revdjaykins@gmail.com">revdjaykins@gmail.com</a> or 618-635-2386.</td>
<td><strong>Job Opportunity:</strong> St. Peter UCC in Lenzburg is looking for an organist/pianist starting at the 10 am worship service on the first Sunday in September. Contact the office at 618-475-2557 or <a href="mailto:stpeterlenzburg@htc.net">stpeterlenzburg@htc.net</a>.</td>
<td><strong>New Baden Zion UCC will hold a Drive Thru Spaghetti Dinner in the church's front parking lot on Fri, Aug 28 from 4 pm - 7 pm.</strong> Meal includes Spaghetti with a choice of Marinara, Meatball, or Alfredo sauce; dressed salad; breadsticks, and dessert. All meals $9.</td>
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