Time for Gratitude

As we move into October, most people start to think such things as the upcoming holidays, apple picking, cool weather, getting out those cozy sweaters and jackets and all things pumpkin spice. These are some of my favorite things. Maybe they are yours as well. Yet, there is one more thing I urge you to think about in October, and that is your pastor.

October is Clergy Appreciation month. Now more than ever, our clergy need our support, our gratitude, and our encouragement. Ministry is an amazing call, full of great joys and significant moments in people’s lives: officiating weddings, presiding over funerals, seeing first-hand how lives are changed for Christ. Yet, it is also full of tension: intense conflict, unrealistic expectations, relational strain, and, at times, soul-aching loneliness.

Pastors are used to the jokes about “only working on Sundays,” sitting through budget meetings in which the first thing church members talk about reducing is their salary or benefits, and feeling the sting of criticism when church members complain about everything from the Sunday morning music selections to the numbers of worshippers attending services. However, usually what offsets these stresses and disappointments are the times when pastors feel like they are making a difference and when they are able to connect with people on a deeper level.

For more than six months now, as pastors have learned on the fly how to pastor in a pandemic, their job descriptions have expanded, the expectations of them have grown, and they have had little to no time away from the ever coming waves of pastoral care, administrative oversight and worship preparation. Although they might not tell you this, because they do not want to diminish the stress and strain they know you are carrying, they are tired; they are weary; and they are worn. Now more than ever, they need you. They need your prayers. They need your encouragement. They need your support. They need to know they are valued and not a dispensable commodity when church finances are tight. They need more praise and gratitude than criticism.

During the month of October, I encourage you to think about your pastor. Consider the ways you can show them love, care, and support. While your pastor probably does not need one more Bible, plaque or angel figurine, here are some things they do need and would appreciate:

- a handwritten note from you telling them how their ministry has made a difference in their lives
- a gift card to their favorite coffee shop, bookstore, or restaurant
- a surprise gift (it doesn’t have to be extravagant) just something you know they would like, but a luxury they would never buy for themselves
- or better yet a Sunday off—you could connect with other church members to plan and conduct a worship service on a Sunday morning, so they could sleep in, take a drive somewhere or just spend time with family.

Honestly, it does not matter what you decide, just do something to say to your pastor, “We know the hard work you are doing for the kingdom of God and for us.”

“Our we see all of this and we love you, we thank you and we support you.”

“You are not alone.”

Our pastors are such a blessing; during Clergy Appreciation Month, may we bless them with our deep gratitude and praise.

Together in Christ’s service with you,

Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister
Reggie from the Church by caring for our neighbors, children, and creation.

Engaging the Youth
Are you struggling with keeping your youth involved? Bring your questions and concerns regarding ways to keep your Youth engaged in the life of your church during these unprecedented times. Join us via Zoom on October 23 from 3:15 pm to 4 pm as we pose questions and seek the wisdom of our panelists: Julie Gvillo, former Presbyterian Youth Pastor and founder of A Place of Grace and Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins, pastor of St. Paul UCC in Staunton. Gain insight and ideas to rekindle or spark your youth ministry. To register.

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A link to these webinars will also be provided in upcoming Weekly Connections, on our ISC website, and in email communications for Annual Meeting.

Friday, October 23 - Evening
Friday night, Chilang Lawless and Eileen Hoag, both members of Conference Gatherings Team and Committee on Ministry, will host a celebration of churches and pastors who are celebrating milestone anniversaries, the Member in Discernment and the pastors who have retired this year.

Saturday morning, October 24 - Business Meeting
The Conference Council with all church delegates will experience a combination of pre-recorded videos and interactive webinars with voting capabilities for the business portion of our meeting. We plan to have our guest speaker, Rev. Dave Sigmund, the UCC's 3 Great Loves Campaign ambassador, talk to us about the ways in which the Church has been the Church by caring for our neighbors, children, and creation.
Sunday morning, October 25
Join the rest of the conference in an online pre-recorded worship service that will be available for everyone in the Illinois South Conference to view.

Sunday afternoon, October 25
Help us to express appreciation for the ministry of Shirley Asmussen, Director of Outdoor Ministries at DuBois Center. Above in this issue, we explain the details or click here for a flier to share with your congregations.
Check out the Delegate materials at this link. Items will be added as they become available. More details on all that will be taking place during the weekend will be sent to churches and delegates and be made available in upcoming Weekly Connections

Offering
The Conference Council approved the Conference Gatherings Team's decision that the Annual Meeting offering will be designated for food pantries supported by our ISC churches. We will ask churches to "bring" their offerings to the meeting by sending in their checks to ISC with Annual Meeting offering on the memo line and the amount being donated on the "Hunger Project" line of the monthly contribution form. The ISC Hunger Action team will assist in the distribution of the monies raised for our food pantries. We know that hunger is an ongoing issue and that COVID-19 has put an extra strain on the pantries. So, we pray that the generosity of the churches and delegates will assist the pantries and their patrons during this time.

Preparing for the Annual Meeting Theme
3 Great Loves: Neighbors, Children, Creation.

Free 3 Great Loves Initiative Resource Document
During the 2020-2021 programmatic year 3 Great Loves can be a valuable and easy to engage denominational initiative, even if your church hasn't actively participated since its inception in 2017. With this free resource guide, we re-introduce you to 3 Great Loves, outline its contours and framework, provide adaptable and customizable resources, and invite you to find your place and part in this denominational program of living out God's love.
From introductory letters, sermon suggestions, sample sermon, 3 Great Loves theme song, newly created 3 Great Loves worship liturgies, to children's coloring pages, and more. This resource is made for customization with ready to use materials.
Click here to download a resource document to learn more.

Annual Meeting Marketplace Vendors
Although you may not be able to greet representatives of the Marketplace vendors in person this year, you can still learn about their ministries. Below is the list as of today. Check back at the ISC website for more as they become available.

Deaconess Nurse Ministry  Print  St. John Community Care  Print  Video
Eden Theological Seminary  Print  Video
Emmaus Homes  Print  Video
Hoyleton Youth & Family Services  Video
Marion Medical Mission  Print  Video

Have You Read a Good Book Lately?
Each year the Committee on Ministry Team asks authorized ministers of ISC to complete an annual review form. This request serves as an opportunity for pastors to share their ministry joys and concerns for the past year. One of the questions on the form asks pastors to share one book and/or experience that they would highly recommend. We have been sharing and will continue to share some of those recommendations for the next few weeks to help pastors and lay alike to find new and inspiring books and/or experiences.
Recommendations for October 6
● The Meaning of Mary Magdalene by Cynthia Bourgeault
● Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller
● Unafraid, Words of Life, and When Christians Get It Wrong by Adam Hamilton
● Changing the World from the Inside Out by David Jaffe
● If Joan of Arc Had Cancer by Janet Lynn Roseman

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.
Neighbors In Need Offering (NIN) offerings are traditionally collected the first week of October, but consider highlighting NIN anytime during the month of October. This offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. You may have noticed that you did not receive your Neighbors in Need offering material in the mail this year. Due to the fact that so many churches are meeting virtually at this time, the National UCC decided that the NIN resources would instead be made available in electronic format. They have provided videos, posters, bulletin inserts, and social media links at this link. You can also donate directly to NIN with the click of a button on their site.

Amazing People of Illinois South Conference... Thirteen members of St. Paul UCC in Belleville joined the Walk to End Alzheimer’s on October 3. Due to the Annual Alzheimer’s Event being restricted to small groups this year, St Paul UCC Belleville walked down Main Street. This team surpassed its goal of raising $2,000 and continues to submit donations to help rid the world of Alzheimer’s Disease and other dementias. The Team: Peggy Burke, Wayne Caughman, Edie Elliott, Debbie Lippert, Mimi Llamas, Marlene Mueller, Sonja Myland, Roger Relfe, Susan Relfe, Betty Rotert, Laureen Torigian, Pastor Michelle Torigian, Larry Walton.

Disaster Clean-Up Buckets Assembled On Sept. 26, members and friends of Zion Evangelical UCC in Hoyleton gathered to assemble 50 Disaster Clean-Up Buckets. These buckets will be distributed by Church World Service (CWS) to those affected by disasters. With recent disasters striking the US - hurricanes, tornados, derechos, wildfires, flooding and so on - many persons are in need of cleaning supplies to begin their recovery process. The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, along with other denominations, partner with Church World Service to provide these Clean-Up Buckets, Hygiene Kits and School Kits to those affected by disasters.

The Clean-Up buckets contain about $70 worth of cleaning supplies; household cleaners, reusable wipes, scrub brushes, sponges and more. Even the bucket itself has several uses. On Oct 3, Priscilla Self, Illinois South Conference UCC Disaster Recovery Coordinator, and Rebecka Wacker, Zion Evangelical UCC member, delivered these buckets to the Festival of Sharing event in St. Louis where CWS representatives picked them up to take to the CWS distribution warehouse. CWS representatives were very appreciative of these donations. CWS has annual fall pick-up locations in various cities, which alleviates shipping costs for the buckets and kits.

Zion Evangelical UCC members and friends donate weekly to their on-going Disaster Fund so when (not if, but when) disaster needs arise, they are ready to help. Appreciation is extended to those donors, volunteers, Restoff’s Hardware for ordering supplies, Kim and Gerard Restoff for delivering and organizing supplies at Zion and Leon Averbeck of Deli Star in Fayetteville for donating and delivering the buckets/lids.

For more information about Church World Service and the kits, click here and UCC Disaster Ministries, click here. Pictured above right are: Back: Patty Brink, Kevin Meyer, Gayla Corrigan, Rebecka Wacker, Gerard Restoff, Kim Restoff, Mark Hake - President of Zion, Janet Klie, Gene Klie, Jim Wacker. Front: Carolyn Meyer, Jon Wacker, Karmen Reynolds, Carol Kirchoff, and Howard Brink

A Letter from the Council of Conference Ministers - October 2020
Dear Members of the United Church of Christ:
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

In August the National Setting of the UCC committed to hire a consulting firm to lead them through "an objective racial equity assessment“ to hold the national setting of the church accountable to the ideals the church has espoused regarding racial equality and inclusion.

We recognize that the history of the UCC includes a wide array of narratives: those of myriad immigrants, formerly enslaved persons, colonists, indigenous communities, and more. Our predecessor bodies included abolitionists as well as slave owners; those who believed that racial inequality was established by God, and those who affirmed God-given racial equality with passion and fervor. Our predecessor bodies included those who pressed for the forced assimilation
of indigenous peoples as well as those who stood in solidarity with and advocated on behalf of indigenous people. Our history contains the very best of American history regarding racial equality and it contains some of the worst. As a body made up of myriad traditions, theologies, languages, and geographies, our predecessor bodies reflected the society and time around them. Yet, out of that complexity and contention arose something new: a movement of unity in the face of difference, our United Church of Christ.

The tragic events we have witnessed in 2020 have magnified awareness of the disparities in our church and society based on race. The Council of Conference Ministers affirms the commitment of the national setting to racial equality and inclusion and recognizes the need to engage in our own process of critical self-reflection. Therefore, in this moment, the Council of Conference Ministers invites the congregations and members of our conferences to recognize and affirm our call to:

Consider anew how racism has divided us, damaged and at times destroyed our siblings in Christ, and broken the bonds of peace;

Ask for forgiveness for our silence in the face of racial injustice;

Take responsibility for our part in the struggle for racial justice;

Recognize the political, theological and spiritual diversity of our congregations and to heed the great commandment of Matthew 22:37 to love God with all our souls and with all our minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves;

Witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ by engaging in deep self-reflection to “remove the log from our own eye” (Matthew 7:5) so that we may become more aware of our own racism and repent of it;

Build processes of racial inclusion and equity in church membership, leadership, and service; and

Engage in the sacred work of dismantling racist structures and white supremacy where we find them in the church and the community.

As Conference Ministers, we are on this journey with you; and will facilitate and support this work by providing resources that will enable reflection, dialog and action in addressing systems of institutional racism and white supremacy. The reflection and engagement will be different in each conference depending on its unique histories and narratives.

Our covenant is that we will move into self-reflection and clear-eyed conversations with open hearts to hear one another without fear or judgment. We understand that talking about racism, white supremacy and privilege in the church is difficult. However, due to our shared commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and in response to God’s invitation to unity, we are empowered to engage in these daunting and uncomfortable conversations. May we do so, as we are led by the Holy Spirit as God's people.

With Grace and Gratitude,
The Council of Conferences Ministers
United Church of Christ - September 2020

COVID-19 Video Training
The Insurance Board is pleased to announce the release of its COVID-19 Video Training, “Reopening during COVID-19: Considerations for Church Leadership and Clergy” to help ministries with their decision-making process regarding reopening during COVID-19. This training video features denominational leaders and legal experts, Heather Kimmel, General Counsel of United Church of Christ; Rev. Terri Hord Owens, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Rev. Joyce Lieberman, Stated Clerk from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and Dean Rocco, Attorney from Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP.

This resource includes two videos: (1) for church leadership and clergy; (2) a companion video for ministry staff. Each participant will also receive Insurance Board's COVID-19 TOOLKIT. The training video bundle is available to Insurance Board policyholders at no cost; each church (policyholder) will have access to 25 licenses. Ministries not insured by Insurance Board that are within the denominations we serve will have access to the training at a discounted rate of $2.50 per license. 10% of the proceeds for member pricing will be donated to their denomination. For more information and discount codes please visit our dedicated page.

In addition to partnering with denominational leaders and legal experts, we collaborated with myCEcourse for access to the training platform that not only helps church administrators with assigning the training to their leaders and staff, but also gives them the ability to track progress and generate a downloadable Certificate of Completion for individuals that complete the training. In many states it is required to provide COVID-19 training to church leadership, staff and volunteers prior to reopening. By participating in this training, ministries may minimize their legal burden, but more importantly they are providing a safe place to work and worship.

Here are two short introductory videos for your viewing: Intro 1 and Intro 2

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 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.

FALL FESTIVAL CHALLENGE
Yes, DuBois Center's Fall Festival was postponed until October 2021, but the spirit lives on for this major friend-raising and fund-raising event. Norma Borgmann, who has been involved with DuBois Center for decades as a friend, camper, staff member, Outdoor Ministries Team (OMT) member & chair and acting director, is challenging other friends of the Center with a $500 donation. In the note accompanying her gift she wrote, "As you know I usually bake a few snacks & provide some Silent Auction items - thus such a gift. Sure hope others will donate $ to help balance the budget in this historic year of COVID-19." This would have been the 44th year for some version of this event, which began modestly in 1977 and grew from there. Nancy Wager, current OMT Chair, suggests that supporters consider donating $1, $2, $3 or more each year of Fall Festival.
$1 per year = a Yellow Leaf giver at $44
$2 per year = a Red Leaf giver at $88
$3 per year = an Orange Leaf giver at $132
Anything above this amount would be at the Gold Leaf level.
If you are a "regular," it might be fun to consider what you would have spent at or for Fall Festival 2020 - either as a participant or as a volunteer or a provider of goods to be sold. Participants eat, shop, ride, relax, bid, and enjoy the fellowship of friends and family. Supporters also enjoy fellowship as they bake, promote, stitch, recruit, decorate, set up, take down, drive, lead, greet, direct, park, deliver, clean, serve and dedicate hours and hours to make it all happen. You may donate online or send a check to DuBois Center; 2651 Quarry Road; DuBois, IL 62831.
Thank you for keeping the ministry of DuBois Center in your thoughts and prayers.

HORSE SENSE in ACTION
Gently grooming and tacking a favorite horse, riding peacefully through the trails, cantering across the bottoms - that's often what comes to mind when people think about our Horse Volunteers. While those moments do occur, they are definitely not the norm. Volunteers hit the road early so they can travel to camp, gather, feed, check, groom and tack the herd before guests arrive. They instruct, coach, lead, sanitize, untack, muck stalls and clean before their day is done. One of the more challenging and least pleasant tasks is stripping and re-bedding the stalls, which happens a couple times a year. It involves digging out and removing the old material that is nearly rock hard and then adding fresh lime and sawdust. During a typical summer, a couple stalls can be done each week, or a number of staff can head to the barn, crank up the tunes and dig in! Since that was not possible this past summer, this dedicated team got creative and put their horse sense to work. Yes, they still had to dig out the old, but they used the tractor in a creative way with the new. Watch this video and marvel at their innovation! A SPECIAL THANKS to all our Horse Volunteers and especially to Bre, Kim, Larry, Ryan and Scott for a job well done and some quick thinking! The herd greatly appreciates the fresh bedding!
If you are a people-person who enjoys being outdoors and working with horses - consider joining our Horse Volunteers. It's a great way to give back and be of service to others, while spending quality time in God's creation. The time commitment varies based on your availability. Some volunteer 2-3 times a month, others only a couple times a year. Depending on the season, weekend and mid-week options are available. For more information, contact Scott Kuether at sekether21@gmail.com.
Waterloo St. Paul UCC for the WIN
On Saturday, a mighty crew from St. Paul UCC in Waterloo arrived at DuBois Center eager to serve. They departed with sore muscles and a well-deserved sense of satisfaction! After dividing into work groups, they got straight to it. One team’s primary task was priming and painting; the other team worked on storm clean-up - both priority projects. With chainsaws, goggles and masks in place, they cut and hauled fallen trees and branches from the heavy winds in early August. They primed and painted 25 posts for the fence on the road across the dam. Now all the needed fencing materials are ready for installation! After enjoying a picnic lunch together - physically distancing of course - the teams joined forces. They hauled and stacked wood from trees cut previously near Coveside Cottage and set up the 9-Square for an upcoming guest group - both tasks that are better done with many hands. THANKS to this hard-working crew from St. Paul UCC! Your efforts truly do make a difference! There is always lots to be done to help maintain your outdoor ministry facilities and grounds and you can help! For more information, contact us at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

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!

Resources for Congregational Giving
The Lake Institute on Faith and Giving at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy is a well-known and well-respected school that understands the basic nature of congregational life and giving. As a part of the United Church of Christ's relationship with the Lake Institute we are offering a series of four free webinars on various aspects of strategic communications where it overlaps with philanthropy and other key elements in helping congregations message their “why” to the wider community. This would be a great series for local church leaders who have responsibility for finances and development and communications to learn together. They could view the webinar and then schedule a time together to talk about their learnings. If you could post this on your social media platforms to get the word out it would strengthen participation. This series is made available through your OCWM giving. Learn more.

If your church has property insurance on your church building with the Insurance Board of the UCC, please be aware the Insurance Board wants to help your church protect your ministry. Imagine finding a pipe burst when you walk into your building. Maybe a bathroom flooded or a hot water heater leaked. In addition to addressing water damage, now you are faced with the overwhelming task of cleanup during a pandemic. Instead, imagine you received a text or email alert telling you there was an issue before significant damage occurred. The Insurance Board has collaborated with HSB Connected Technologies to offer you a valuable early warning system that uses the latest sensor technology. This technology will detect water and monitor indoor temperatures that may help avoid a disruptive impact on your ministry.

There are 3 easy steps to put sensor technology to work for your ministry:
● Sign up today by speaking with your Insurance Board agent or click here.
● Receive your sensors by mail. You will receive emails with delivery status.
● Activate. Using the HSB iSensor app or the instructions provided, activate your account and sensors in less than a half hour.

Eden Theological Seminary Events Happening Soon
Oct. 7 - Schmiechen Public Lecture on Ministry. This year’s presenters are from UCC/Disciples Global Ministries as part of their Southern Asia Initiative. 3 Posters More info.
Oct. 20 - NEXT Steps course prelude, a time to help potential participants get a taste of the NEXT Steps program (reflecting on aging and vocation) Theme of this prelude event is “Creative Aging” Poster; More info.
Oct. 23 - LIFE (Lifelong Learning ) session - preaching with Dr. Christopher Grundy Poster; More info.
**Deaconess Foundation Updates**

Succession planning is critical to effective governance. So, the joint boards of Deaconess Foundation and Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being keep an active Leadership Development and Succession Plan, which it updated in 2019. As called for in the plan, the Foundation board has taken the first step in the journey to search for a new president and chief executive officer with the appointment of the Executive Transition Committee. The Executive Transition Committee will manage the overall transition process for the organization and determine the scope of the search process. The Foundation Board Chair, Rudolph Nickens, Jr., director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity for Missouri’s Department of Transportation, will also chair the Transition Committee. The following board members and staff will serve on the Committee:

- Karissa Anderson - Advocacy Director, The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
- Patrick Brown - Community Development Executive, Ameren Missouri
- The Reverend Wendy Bruner - Pastor, Peace United Church of Christ (Webster Groves)
- The Honorable Michael Butler - Record of Deeds, City of St. Louis
- Dale Fiedler - Retired, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation
- Vanessa Foster Cooksey - Director of Strategic Communications & Student Engagement, Washington University
- Elizabeth Noonan, Esq. - Principal, Elizabeth Noonan Consulting, LLC
- Devonn Thomas - Executive Assistant to the President & CEO, Deaconess Foundation

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. Mission [Moment](#) for your church.

**Adult Day Care Welcomes Participants Again**

St. John’s Community Care’s Adult Day Program is once again able to welcome participants back to our program. Coronavirus mandates forced the closing of both the Edwardsville and Collinsville locations for the past 6.5 months. “We are ready!” said Stacey Rhodes, Adult Day Program Director. “The IL Dept. on Aging approved our reopening plan which documents the many ways we will insure social distancing and other measures to assure the safety of both our participants and staff.” The program cares for individuals who are coping with memory loss or aging issues. Daily activities and therapies like music and art involve participants in stimulating interactions with others. Equally important, their families benefit from a break in their caregiving responsibilities, knowing their loved one is safe and happy at St. John’s.

Currently the Collinsville and Edwardsville centers can each accommodate only a small number of participants during limited hours. We look forward to again welcoming participants Monday - Friday from 6:30 - 6:00 p.m. when it is safe to do so. The program provides respite for family caregivers while compassionate program aides care for their loved ones. Visit our website at [www.stjohnscc.org](http://www.stjohnscc.org) or call St. John’s Community Care at 618-344-5008 for more information. St. John’s also offers training and support for dementia caregivers and individuals with early memory loss.

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

**Get Ready to Vote: Early, By Mail, or In Person! Justice and Mission Team Asks You to Vote**

You must be registered to vote. You can check to see if you are registered to vote [here](#), and if not, register to vote online [here](#). To learn more about registering, check out this [document](#).

There are several ways to vote in the election:

- **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**
Vote Early
By Mail

● Due to concerns over COVID 19, many people may elect to vote by mail. You must apply to get a mail-in ballot. For those who apply to vote by mail, ballots will begin being mailed on September 24. There are three ways to apply:
  ● in person at your election authority by November 2 OR
  ● by mail by returning the application you may get in the mail. OR
  ● apply online here.

All mailed or online applications for ballots must be received by your Election Authority by October 29, 2020.

In Person

● Vote in person by early voting (October 19-November 2.) You can learn about places to vote early by selecting the 2020 General Election and your Election Authority at this website. However, as of this writing, the places for early voting are not yet posted.

Vote at the Polls on November 3, 2020

● Vote in person at your polling place on Election Day. To find your polling place, go here.

ONA Coalition Presents Fall Webinars for Your Church

The Coalition's popular webinar series resumes on Thursday, Oct. 8, with "ONA 201: Best Practices for Growing ONA Churches." The series continues with "ONA 101" and "1-to-1 Conversations about ONA"—both indispensable resources for not-yet ONA congregations. No matter where you are on your ONA journey, there's a webinar for you! Look for discounted season passes and reduced rates for multiple participants. And please contact us if you'd like to schedule a special webinar or consulting session for your congregation! Click here to find out more.

Zoom Prayer and Lectionary Lunch Hour for Pastors

The Local Church Ministries team will continue to host a weekly Zoom Prayer and Lectionary Lunch Hour on every Wednesday at 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm for all Illinois South Conference pastors. This is an opportunity for clergy in the Conference to get together for weekly prayer, support, and the sharing of preaching and worship ideas for the coming Sunday. We hope to see you in Zoom for our Wednesday lunch hours. An email with the Zoom link was sent to all pastors.

Region 2

Dupo Christ UCC will hold its Yard Sale on Sat, Oct 10 from 8 am - 1 pm. Contact the church with questions at 618-286-4211.

Region 3

St. John UCC Granite City will hold a drive-thru/carry-out only Sausage Dinner on Sun, Oct 18 from 11 am - 6 pm or until we run out. All dinners $10. Sausage, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, apple sauce, and cake with each dinner.

Region 4

Drive Thru Friday Fish Fries at St. John's UCC Brighton on Nov 6, 13, 20 serving from 11 am to 6:30 pm as a kick-off of the celebration of their 150th anniversary of ministry. Menu includes a choice of entrees alone or meals with 2 sides: white or buffalo fish, pulled pork, brats, hot dogs, Troy Friedens UCC will hold a Drive-Thru Sausage Dinner on Sun, Oct 11 from 11 am - 5:30 pm. Menu includes grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy and dessert. Cost $10 per dinner. Contact 618-667-6535 or email.

Troy Friedens UCC's Fall Rummage Sale will be Fri, Oct 16 from 3 pm - 6 pm and Sat, Oct 17 from 8 am - 1 pm at their Fellowship Hall. Donation drop off on Mon, Oct 12. Call 618-667-6535 with questions. Participants will be following CDC guidelines.

Region 5

Troy Friedens UCC will hold a Drive-Thru Sausage Dinner on Sun, Oct 11 from 11 am - 5:30 pm. Menu includes grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy and dessert. Cost $10 per dinner. Contact 618-667-6535 or email.

Job Opportunities

Job Opportunity:
The Highland Evangelical UCC is searching for a Director of Audio-Visual Ministries. The person in this position will lead all areas of multimedia and technical productions in a manner to glorify Christ to further the mission and ministry during all worship services, ministries, and special events at EvUCC. Click here for a full job description. Send resumes to office@evucc.org by October 15.

Job Opportunity:
St. Peter UCC in Lenzburg is looking for an organist/pianist for the 10 am worship service starting immediately. Contact the office at 618-475-2557 or stpeterlenzburg@htc.net.
potato salad, cole slaw, green beans, baked beans, mac & cheese and desserts. Entrees $5; Sides $1; Desserts $3; Meal $10. Delivery of meals to local schools and businesses from 11 am - 1 pm. Credit/Debit Cards or Cash. Order at 618-556-0801 or drive up to place an order. Proceeds support Brighton St. John's UCC.