Practice Makes Perfect!
Churches, pastors and lay delegates are invited to practice participating in Zoom sessions to prepare for Annual Meeting.
The first session will be on **Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 pm CST**. This session is mainly to practice signing in, making sure your video and audio are functioning correctly, where the chat link is so that you can comment or ask questions, how to mute and unmute your audio, and how the voting will take place. Here is the link for joining this evening:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84802004166
Meeting ID: 848 0200 4166

The second Zoom session will be on **Thursday, October 22 at 6:30 pm CST** to review the business portions of Annual Meeting and to ask for clarification for the proposed budget, Constitution/Bylaws proposed additions, and the slate of nominees for Illinois South Conference Teams and Committees. Here is the link for joining that evening:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86854779903
Meeting ID: 868 5477 9903
You may consider signing in 15-20 minutes prior to the meeting to make sure you have Zoom set up on your computer. You will automatically go into a virtual "waiting room," and the host, Rev. Shana Johnson, will click to let you into the meeting at the correct time.
Please join these meetings. We are all learning the process, and your participation will help the annual meeting run as smoothly as possible.

Local Church Ministries Presents Virtual Workshops
There is no fee to register for these workshops. Click the respective links below to register for the first workshop or attend the second one.

**Friday, October 23**

*The Re-formation of the Church - 2 pm - 3 pm*
Come as you are with your questions and comments to speak with Rev. Dr. Chris Davies of Faith Education, Innovation and Formation of the national setting. We will take a breath together, witness to the time we are in, and hope for the world we are co-creating together. We hope that you will feel restored and deeply heard after having attended this conversation and Webinar on October 23 from 2 pm to 3 pm. Click to register.

*Engaging the Youth - 3:15 pm - 4 pm*
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. Click to attend on Oct 23.

**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 Oct 25 - Oct 31, 2020 Churches & Pastors**
- Lebanon St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dr. Don (Nancy) Wagner
- Lenzburg St. Peter's UCC, Rev. Bob Coffey

**Retired ISC Secretary**
- Jo-Ann Steiner, Pocahontas, IL
Friday, October 23 - Celebration of Ministries - 6:30 pm

Friday night, the Committee on Ministry and representatives of the Conference Gatherings Team, Chilang Lawless and Eileen Hoag, will host a celebration of churches and pastors who are celebrating milestone anniversaries, the Members in Discernment and the pastors who have retired this year. Click or save this link http://bit.ly/ISCAM2020Celebration to view it. It will NOT be available until 6:30 pm on Friday. (You can also copy and paste the link into your Internet browser.)

Saturday, October 24 - Business Meeting - 8:30 am - 12 noon

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. Rev. Dave Sigmund, the UCC’s 3 Great Loves Campaign ambassador, will talk to us about the ways in which the Church has been the Church by caring for our neighbors, children, and creation. The link was sent to all registered delegates.

IMPORTANT LINK FOR VISITORS

Watch the live stream of the Business meeting on YouTube at this link. Visitors may watch it here. It will be available that day.

PREPARING FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Here are the documents you need to read in preparation for voting at the Annual Meeting.

- Adopt by Consensus Voted On
- Budget
- Bylaws Additions
- Proposed Slate of Nominees

Rev. Dave Sigmund Shares 3 Great Loves Initiative

At the business meeting on Saturday, October 24, Rev. Dave Sigmund, UCC 3 Great Loves Ambassador, will share information about the 3 Great Loves Initiative which began in 2017. The 3 Great Loves is our UCC denomination-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.

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 your free copy of the resource.

For sharing the stories of how you, as a united church, live out God’s love in missional, measurable and meaningful ways, please visit 3greatloves.org. Be sure to include pictures and videos, too!

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for the family of Rev. Richard Norman (Dick) Zulauf, (87) as they mourn his death on October 16, 2020 in Leesburg, Florida. Rev. Zulauf served as Pastor for St. Paul UCC in Freeburg from 1980 - 1989. Services will be held at Immanuel UCC in Latimer, Iowa at 11 am on Oct 23. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service. Masks are required. Cards may be sent to his wife, Anne Zulauf, 25024 Riverwalk Dr, Leesburg, FL 34748. Click here for the complete obituary.

- Pray for Rev. Robert Tripp as he recovers from surgery and some health issues. Rev. Tripp has served on several ISC teams through the years. Cards may be sent to 9008 E South Circle Dr, Effingham, IL 62401.

- Please pray for Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer as he continues to recover from surgery. Cards may be sent to 11315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

- 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
Sunday, October 25 - Worship - 10 am
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. Click this link http://bit.ly/ISCAM2020Worship to view it or copy and paste it into your Internet browser. It will NOT be available until Sunday at 10 am.

Sunday, October 25
Goodbye Gala for Shirley Asmussen
2 pm - 4 pm
Help us to express appreciation for the ministry of Shirley Asmussen, Director of Outdoor Ministries at DuBois Center. Click here for details or print this flier to share with your congregations.

Offering - This year's Annual Meeting offering will be designated for food pantries supported by our ISC churches. We 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. Click here for a flier.

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. You are welcome to use these videos and documents for future mission moments in you church.

Deaconess Foundation  [Pdf] in PowerPoint format  Video
Deaconess Nurse Ministry  Print
Eden Theological Seminary  Print  Video
Emmaus Homes  Print  Video
Hoyleton Youth & Family Services  Video
Marion Medical Mission  Print  Video
St. John's Community Care  Print  Video
United Church Funds  Video
UCC Insurance Board  Print  Video
Uni-Pres Kindercottage  Print

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 these recommendations to help pastors and lay alike to find new and inspiring books and/or experiences.

Recommendations for October 20
● Speaking the Truth by Samuel Wells
● 8 Habits of Love by Ed Bacon
● Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber
● The Palace to Nowhere by Thomas Merton
● Blessed are the Crazy by Sarah Griffith Lund
● The Blood of Emmett Till by Timothy B. Tyson
The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network invites you to SAVE THE DATE for our FIRST online WISE Conference, sponsored and hosted by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The conference will be via ZOOM on Friday, November 13, and Saturday, November 14. It will include a panel discussion during Saturday's lunch hour that will address intersectionality - mental health with the queer community, mental health with disabilities, and mental health with People of Color. Registration link will be available in the coming weeks.

Donate While You Shop!
You can make a difference for Illinois South Conference while you shop Amazon Prime. Simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/37-0866880 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app and AmazonSmile donates to Illinois South Conference Of The United Church Of Christ. Help us, help the churches of Illinois South Conference.

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
If you have already contributed to the Fall Festival Challenge - THANK YOU! If not, there is still time! To date, nearly $1500 has been given! Norma Borgmann, Nancy Wagner and the Outdoor Ministries Team (OMT) are challenging friends of DuBois Center to keep the spirit alive. This would have been the 44th year for some version of this event. It is typically a major friend-raising and fund-raising event for the Center. We hope you will 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 Fall Fest "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. You may donate online or send a check to DuBois Center; 2651 Quarry Road; DuBois, IL 62831. Please be sure to note that your gift is in response to the Fall Fest Challenge. Thank you for keeping the ministry of DuBois Center in your thoughts and prayers.
MOTHER-DAUGHTER VIRUTAL TAKEOVER - THIS Saturday, October 24
Join camp leaders THIS SATURDAY for a virtual Mother-Daughter Day on Facebook. In lieu of our annual fall retreat, we are bringing you a day full of crafts, yoga, nature and more. We'll close with a virtual campfire. While the activities are geared towards mothers & daughters, grandmothers & granddaughters, aunts & nieces - all are welcome to take part in this free event. Click here for a list of supplies to gather and a tentative schedule. Updates will be available on our website later in the week. We won't be able to see each other LIVE, so please post your faces and creations on our Facebook page throughout the day. Then, plan to check out highlights on Instagram.

BACK in the SADDLE
This past weekend, DuBois Center and our horse volunteers welcomed the first guest group riders since March! It was a beautiful day to make new horsey friends and to be out and about. As you have seen in regular posts, the horse team has been busy caring for and tending to the horses, barn and trails, but THIS is why they logged all those hours! Four family groups took advantage of the great weather. In addition to riding, they brought picnic lunches, explored the hiking trails and played in the leaves. Dates are available in November for family and small group rides. Minimum number of participants is 4. For more information contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

SIXTY SECONDS of SOLITUDE
Fall has arrived and with it all the beauty of the season! A carpet of leaves covers the ground and the air is fresh and crisp - especially on windy days. Today's edition of 60 Seconds of Solitude features an early fall view of the lake at Deer Run on an especially windy day. Sit comfortably, relax your shoulders, breathe deeply and let the winds refresh you from afar. John 3:8 Only God's Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. (CEV) Watch for occasional solitude postings on our website and Facebook page.

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!

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.

Eden Theological Seminary Events Happening Soon

Oct. 23 - LIFE (Lifelong Learning) session - preaching with Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy. Ever thought about preaching in your congregation? Ever felt a tug in that direction? The LIFE course in preaching offers participants a taste of the tasks and personal formation associated with preparing and delivering a good sermon. Participants will be introduced to simple steps that can help build a foundation for good preaching, and an approach to encountering scripture as the work of the whole people of God. Poster; More info.

Oct. 25 - Festival of Psalms - A concert "Faith in the Wilderness" will be online and correspond to the annual area CROP Walk against Hunger. This unique musical event, in its ninth year running, has a devoted following in the wider St. Louis community. This year the musical program will be online with music from the Biblical psalms in a variety of styles, including blues, choral, folk, gospel, and hymns. A concert "Faith in the Wilderness" will be online and correspond to the annual area CROP Walk against Hunger. Poster; Bulletin Blurb; Press Release; More info.

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services' HALO Specialist, Tasha Morrow is willing to present community awareness trainings around Human Sex and Labor trafficking later in October. There are varying levels of understanding and competency around the subject, and because of this, she is able to customize the training to fit the needs of different groups. Typically the training consists of definitions, red flags (or warning signs), and how to help in the fight against trafficking. It can be as short as an hour long via zoom. If your congregation would be interested, contact her at 618-688-4769 or nmorrow@hoyleton.org.

St. John's Community Care will hold a Drive Thru Senior Sampler and Caregiver Resources on Wed, Oct 28 from 9 am - 11:30 am at the St. John's Community Care in Collinsville. Come enjoy a socially distanced drive thru informational event for seniors and family caregivers. You will receive a bag of information, treats and goodies while supplies last. Donuts courtesy of Kruta's Bakery. There is no fee to attend.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

UCC All Saints Service

This year has created loss for many. So in calling on our faith that all those who have gone before are in community with All Saints, you are invited to join us in honoring those who have passed, especially to COVID-19, for a service of All Saints with music, prayer, and lifting of names. We will gather via Zoom on November 1st at 5 pm CT.

To contribute a name to the visual list of people in memoriam, simply fill out this form and the name will be included.

Additionally, if your congregation has done a communal memorial, you are welcome to send photos to UCCPhotos@ucc.org and have them included in the national service.

Register for the Zoom Service here.
**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. Need the link, contact cpursell@iscucc.org.

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<td><strong>St. Paul UCC in Columbia will host a Drive-Thru Food Drive on Sat, Oct 31 from 10 am - 12 pm</strong> to benefit the House of Neighborly Service in Waterloo that serves all of Monroe County. The drop-off point will be in the rear of the church under the drive-through canopy off Bottom Road. They provide various services beyond the food pantry as well. Suggested items: canned corn, canned fruit, canned cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, canned sweet potatoes, instant potatoes, evaporated milk, peanut butter, jelly, flour, sugar, cleaning supplies. For more information about the House of Neighborly Service, click here.</td>
<td><strong>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, potato salad, cole slaw, green beans, baked beans, mac &amp; 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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Job Opportunity:</strong> St. John's UCC Church in Smithton is seeking a part time Administrative Assistant for approximately 12-15 hours per week. Candidate must be attentive to detail and proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and have general literacy with technology. A working knowledge of software platforms and social media would be helpful. Candidate will work closely with Pastor to collaborate weekly tasks. Other duties include, but are not limited to, answering phones, sending emails, scanning documents, printing and folding weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters, organizing volunteers for weekly worship duties, keeping inventory of office supplies, bathroom and cleaning supplies and ordering the supplies. Starting salary is $13 per hour. Please send resume to <a href="mailto:revwilson.sjucc@gmail.com">revwilson.sjucc@gmail.com</a>**</td>
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<td><strong>St John UCC Collinsville is taking orders to support their Sausage Sales.</strong> Each pound of sausage (links, patties, or bulk) is $3.50. Orders are due by Nov 5 with a pick-up on Sat, Nov 14 from 10 am - 4 pm at the church. All orders will include written cooking instructions followed by the team of cooks during Wurst-Markt. To order, click here. For questions, please contact the church office at 618-344-2526 or email.</td>
<td><strong>Job Opportunity:</strong> 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 <a href="mailto:office@evucc.org">office@evucc.org</a>.**</td>
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**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.