For the Week of November 1-7, 2020

United in Christ’s Love, a Just World for All
Your gifts make a difference. Together we can accomplish far more than we can as individuals. We are the United Church of Christ and together in the spirit of unity we are partnering with others to build the just world for all that we believe God imagines. With a gift to the Annual Fund in this critical

you will create hope together with our nearly 5,000 churches and over 800,000 members. We are at a time like no other. The pandemics of COVID19 and Racism have impacted us in ways we could never imagine. The effects of climate change are manifested in hurricanes and wildfires taking their toll on human lives and the environment.
Our local churches, the vital place where our values are incarnated, have had to make dramatic changes to their worship and congregational life. Amid these challenges, the church is discovering anew its “why” and how we can best serve our members and the community.
We invite you to make a gift at this time to the UCC Annual Fund. With a gift now, you will make a difference through “Holy Multiplication,” a season where together we can accomplish more than we can as individuals.
The national setting carries out a wide variety of ministries of care, compassion, and justice, including:
- Planting new churches
- Assisting local churches as they seek new leadership
- Providing resource materials like the Still Speaking Daily Devotionals
- Advocating for justice in Washington D.C.
- Working globally with our partners around the world

With a donation today, you will be working to dismantle racism. During the pandemic, we have sent grants to congregations of color and ethnic minorities. In 2003 at General Synod, we adopted a resolution calling for the UCC to be an anti-racist church. One program that has made a difference is Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER). Participants in the seven-week institute note the impact the program has made in their lives:
- “Grappling with the awareness of white privilege is formative. My life is changing!”
- “The journey made me feel committed to continue my education and to become a stronger ally in the fight to end systemic racism.”
- “This is a groundbreaking resource connected to a strategy and plan of action to end racism throughout our relationships and communities. It’s more than another call to action. It’s a demand to transform into the reality of who God calls us to be. If you consider yourself to be a person of justice, you must take the journey.”

Now more than ever, our witness as the United Church of Christ is needed in the world. By making a year-end gift to the Annual Fund, you will witness and minister as we seek a just
world for all. As you prayerfully consider your Annual Fund gift, we invite you to give generously to build the Kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.
Yours in faith,
Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister & President
P.S. If you have already made a gift, thank you for joining this “Holy Multiplication” of impacting our world with the good news

People with Life Concerns
- Pray for the family of Eileen Shaw as they mourn her death. Eileen Shaw is the mother-in-law of Nikki (Tim) Shaw, the social media specialist for ISC. Cards may be sent to 6314 Beaver Creek Ct, Fort Wayne, IN 46814.
- 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

All ISC, IKC, and Heartland pastors are invited to join the Rev. Shana Johnson, Rev. Chad Abbott and Rev. Dave Long-Higgins for our Adaptive Leadership in the Messy Middle: Open Clergy Conversations on Wednesday, November 4 at 2 pm CTS and Wednesday, November 18 at 2 pm CTS. We are looking forward to being in conversation with you.
Topic: Adaptive Leadership in the Messy Middle: Clergy Conversations
Dates: Wednesday, Nov 4, 2020
       Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Time: 2:00 PM CST
To Join the Zoom Meeting, click this link about 10 minutes prior to the meeting. The host will let you into the meeting when it begins.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7088890946
Meeting ID: 708 889 0946
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,7088890946# US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 708 889 0946

Annual Meeting Offering
The church of the Illinois South Conference were very generous at the Annual Meeting. At the time of Annual meeting, $3,011.17 was given to support the various food pantries which are part of the missions of the ISC churches. Throughout the year, the Hunger/Food Action Committee will be dispersing the funds to food pantries which are serving people within our communities. If your church is still collecting for the offering, please send to the Conference office and tell us that it is part of the Annual Meeting offering.
A job well done, ISC churches.
The scene of Annual meeting looked quite different than other years and quite a few people should be congratulated and thanked for making our Annual Meeting possible. A big thank you to our Gathering Team; the Rev. Shana Johnson and the ISC staff; our Executive Committee; Nick Luer who produced our Celebration and Worship videos; and Rev. Katie
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.

**Annual Meeting Behind the Screen**

Hotze-Wilton, Director of Audio and Video Instructional Technology at Eden Theological Seminary, our behind-the-scenes tech moderator who has been managing, from Eden Seminary's Wehrli Chapel, all of the different tech pieces in our meeting. We owe her much gratitude for her "behind-the-scene" work that kept our meeting rolling. Katie's photo is left with the four photos showing all of the equipment necessary to make it happen.

Rev. Shana Johnson's view was quite different also. The two photos below to the left show her home office prepared for the meeting.

The bottom three photos and the photo with the big screen give you an idea of how workshops, the Friday Celebration, Saturday Business Meeting, Worship and Shirley's Good-bye Gala looked to the delegates and visitors.

Although this year’s Annual Meeting was conducted much differently than previous years, we connected in new ways to continue to be God’s hands and feet on this earth.

Rev. David Sigmund joined us from California (2 hours earlier than our time) to give the keynote about the UCC denomination’s 3 Great Loves Campaign. Rev. Sigmund is the ambassador for the nationwide campaign to show our love for neighbor, children, and creation. He asks you to send in your stories about how your congregation expresses that love within your ministries on the local level. Photos and videos are welcome. Check out more about the 3 Great Loves Campaign at this link.
Goodbye Gala For Shirley Asmussen
The Outdoor Ministry Team of the Illinois South Conference held a virtual Goodbye Gala for Shirley Asmussen on Sunday, October 25th, from 2 pm to 4 pm on Zoom. In November, Shirley will be closing out her ministry with the Illinois South Conference as our Director of Outdoor Ministry. Over 75 people joined the Zoom gathering to wish Shirley well and to thank her for her ministry since 2009. Several people told stories of their time as a camper. Some told stories of working with Shirley as a counselor. It showed the extent of Shirley’s passion and commitment to camp as a ministry of Illinois South Conference. She has changed the lives of many who have passed through DuBois Center.
Click here to send Shirley your fond memory of DuBois Center and/or working with her.

Conversations for the Present Moment
The Conference Ministers of the Illinois South, Heartland, and Indiana-Kentucky Conferences of the UCC present a live Facebook conversation, "Live like Jazz," this Thursday, October 29, at 2 pm CDT to discuss the book Letters to the Church: Encouragement and Engagement for the 2020 Election with the book’s author Rev. Dr. William B. Kincaid. "Letters to the Church" seeks to help compassionate, thoughtful Christians find their voices and courage for honest, hopeful conversations. These conversations will help re-center the church for faithful discernment, courageous imagination, and constructive engagement in the broader community.
Rev. Kincaid is the Herald B. Monroe Professor of Leadership and Ministry Studies at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana. An Ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he is the author of Like Stepping into a Canoe: Nimbleness and the Transition into Ministry and Finding Voice: How Theological Field Education Shapes Pastoral Identity. Go to the ISC Facebook page to view it.

It's a Family Affair
Over the last couple of weeks a number of different small groups have been at DuBois Center for work days. Three hard workers from the Sullivan–Zbinden family spent part of their fall break from school lending a helping hand. Both Aralynn and Bailey were campers in 2019 and were planning to return in 2020, along with other family members. This year, they got their dose of DuBois in October instead of June or July. They hauled brush, painted and moved rocks for the pollinator gardens… and kept on smiling! They also took time to enjoy a picnic lunch and to visit the horses. St. Paul UCC in Waterloo was back at camp for a second day this fall. This time, youth group members enjoyed trail rides in the morning, lunch in the back of a pick-up truck, and then an
afternoon of work projects. This crew raked and raked and raked, then they moved 455 pieces of wood – first into the truck and then into the wood shed. A SPECIAL THANKS to these members of DuBois Center’s extended family! P.S. No, they did not ride on the back of the truck when moving the wood.

Ongoing Support

Historically, St. Peter’s UCC in Okawville has had strong ties to DuBois Center. This has been evident over the years through their support of summer campers, and their participation in workdays, Fall Festival and special fundraising efforts. They put on a great Shrimp Boil to support the new spillway and HVAC in Oak Lodge! Members have served and currently serve on ISC committees related to DuBois Center, on our summer staff, as chaplains and volunteers in other capacities. Each spring they kick off recruitment efforts with a Camp Sunday and from there they provide significant support for their young people to attend summer camp. This year, with no summer camp, there were no campers to support. Instead, church leaders decided to allocate the $3500 that would have typically paid for summer camp fees to support DuBois Center directly. This gift will help to ensure the Center’s viability during these challenging times. A SPECIAL THANKS to St. Peter’s UCC in Okawville!
Fall Festival Challenge

If you have already contributed to the Fall Festival Challenge – THANK YOU!
If not, there is still time! To date, over $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; Du Bois, 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.

CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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.
Insurance Board Offers Several Ideas

**Water Sensor Technology:** Thank you all for supporting this initiative to protect ministries and minimize/mitigate damage from water related incidents. We are offering “free professional installation” to the first 50 churches that sign up. We are happy to say that we were able to secure more free installations through our partnership with HSB; however, we are close to running out! If interested in free installation, please contact Elizabeth Vance / Loss Control to determine availability at evance@insuranceboard.org. The self-installation is rather easy, and the sensors arrive with an installation guide. For sensor placement please refer to this guide.

**Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar,** hosted by the Department of Homeland Security is scheduled for October 29 at 1 pm CST. There are more than 100 spots available as of today. Early registration is encouraged if interested. Due to the high demand of this topic we are working with DHS to host another event in November. Stay tuned for more details...

**COVID-19 Video Training:** Insurance Board’s COVID-19 Video Training, “Re-opening during COVID-19: Considerations for Church Leadership and Clergy” to help ministries with their decision making process regarding re-opening during COVID-19 was released late September and features a companion video for staff and volunteers. The 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, Executive and Stated Clerk Synod of South Atlantic with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and Dean Rocco, Attorney from Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP. Read the full press release [here](#) or you can find more information [here](#).

**St. John’s Community Care offers Art Therapy for those challenged with dementia or Alzheimer’s.** *What is Art Therapy?* Art therapy is a mental health profession that uses the creative process of art making to improve the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of individuals of all ages. It is based on the belief that the creative process involved in artistic self-expression helps people to resolve conflict and problems, develop interpersonal skills, manage behavior, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and self-awareness, and achieve insight (source: American Art Therapy Association). No special art skill is needed to participate. For more information, click [here](#).

### Community Farewell:

**Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson**

Deaconess Friends & Partners,

For the last nine years, Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson has served the St. Louis region and its children as the president and chief executive of Deaconess Foundation. In a few short weeks, Starsky will depart Deaconess Foundation to lead the nation’s strongest, most effective voice for children, the Children’s Defense Fund. We are deeply appreciative of his principled and visionary leadership throughout the years having led our community in reimagining the role of philanthropy in the freedom struggle and guiding Deaconess’ evolution from a grantmaking organization into an institutional advocate for child well-being.

It is my pleasure to invite you to join Deaconess Foundation’s Board of Trustees, Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being’s Board of Directors and Deaconess’ staff team in celebrating
Starsky’s dedicated service to our community and wishing him well as he embarks on his new journey with the Children’s Defense Fund. On Saturday, November 7th, stop by between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to join us for a Community Farewell at Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being (1000 North Vandeventer Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63113). The celebration will embody the spirit of an open-house so guests may come, engage briefly, and go. Face coverings and social distancing are required. Masks will be provided as needed.

**Deaconess Moves Forward** On Tuesday, October 6, Deaconess Foundation’s board of trustees approved the engagement of community leader, Cheryl D.S. Walker, Esq., as Interim President & CEO. Walker is no stranger to the organization or community. She was a Deaconess trustee from 2011 through 2017 and chaired the board from 2015 through 2017. Cheryl was also the founding president of the board of directors for Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being and has served in that capacity since 2017. She will begin working alongside Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson on October 22, then assume leadership of the foundation upon his departure on November 18.

Ms. Walker will support the board and guide the extraordinary staff during our national search for a permanent chief executive. Her knowledge of nonprofit governance and executive transitions will be remarkably valuable. In recent years, she has led successful executive search committees for the University of Missouri System, the St. Louis Regional Health Commission, and the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission.

Cheryl is currently president & CEO of Seven24 Consulting Group LLC and a transactions attorney for Walker Commercial Law Group, LLC. She was previously Of Counsel for Riley Safer Homes & Cancila LLP and Bryan Cave LLP. Walker chairs the boards of the Missouri Ethics Commission and St. Louis Regional Health Commission and is vice chair of the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission. Other current board memberships include the St. Louis Business Empowerment Center, Saint Louis Social Venture Partners and the Whitaker Foundation. She previously chaired the University of Missouri Board of Curators and the St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees.

Walker earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Missouri University of Science & Technology and the juris doctorate from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a member of the Illinois and Missouri Bars and has been honored with numerous awards, including the St. Louis Business Journal’s Most Influential Women (2017), National Society of Black Engineers’ Excellence in the Legal Profession (2012), and the YWCA Metro St. Louis’ Women Leaders Award (2008).

Deaconess’ Transition Committee is in the process of finalizing the search team to assist the board in identifying, screening, and selecting a talented pool of candidates. The search firm and Committee will be affirmed at the Joint Annual Meeting of Deaconess Foundation and Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being on Tuesday, November 10th from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Register here to join the open meeting and welcome Cheryl into this new role in our community.

**Worship Resource from Emmaus Homes** Emmaus Homes in St. Louis helps people with developmental disabilities live like you and me, as a ministry of the UCC. They invite you to use the digital resource kit that they have developed. It is Emmaus’ gift to the church because of our partnership in ministry. This resource kit includes an all-in-one video, as well as each worship element separately, which gives you flexibility to edit it or add your own touches, like music and prayer, as desired.

The Emmaus team hopes these resources will bring some fresh content that you can use during this time of virtual, and/or modified worship. The kit can also be used to hold an
Emmaus Sunday if desired. Some churches take up a special offering for Emmaus or give a donation in the amount they would have paid for pulpit supply. We appreciate any support of our ministry that you choose to send.


Questions about supporting Emmaus or if you use any part of the resource, contact Ashley Panhorst at email or 636-699-9641 so that we can recognize you. Knowing how many churches have used the resource will let us know if it is helpful and if we should develop another kit like this in the future. This information will help us report the collaboration to our Board and funders.

What’s Happening in Illinois South Conference

Region 1

Region 2

All Regions

St. Paul UCC in Columbia will host a Drive-Thru Food Drive on Sat, Oct 31 from 10 am - 12 pm 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, fruit, cranberry sauce, 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.

Region 3

St John UCC Collinsville is taking orders to support their Sausage Sales. 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.

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 150 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 & cheese and desserts. Entrees $5; Sides $1; Desserts $3; Meal $10. Delivery of meals to local businesses and schools 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.

Region 5

Region 6

Region 7

Region 8

Region 9
**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.

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**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.*

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**Important Links**

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