For the Week of November 8-14, 2020

A Prayer for Election Day
Today I will be spending the day in silence, prayer and reflection seeking the enduring peace of Christ as my soul seems to be at unrest just as much as the world seems to be in these days.

I began to write a prayer to share with you. However, when my dear friend and colleague, Rev. Dave Long-Higgins (a gifted writer and poet), sent me the following prayer he wrote, I knew there was nothing more I could add to his eloquent words and message.

With his permission I share it with you. Friends, may this be our prayer today and in the days to come.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson
ISC Conference Minister

A Prayer for Election Day
written by Rev. Dave Long-Higgins

O Love,
The world carries a weight
As it waits and wonders,
Pondering which position
Humanity’s heart will lean.

There is a tension
As votes cast about
Voicing a view of life
Framed in opposites
Caricatures brought to life

Prayer list for Nov 18-14, 2020

Churches & Pastors
-Marion Zion UCC, Rev. John (Sara) Holst
-Marissa Friedens UCC, Pastor Brett (Carolyn) Palmer
Retired Pastor
-Rev. Libby and Jane Feagans-King, Springfield, IL

People with Life Concerns
-Pray for Rev. Nancy (Kevin Lee) Spier-Lee as she deals with some health issues and rehabilitation. Rev. Spier-Lee was the Pastor for Zion UCC St. Joe in Waterloo and served on several ISC teams. Cards may be sent to her at 309 Kroeger Ave, Dupo, IL 62239.
-Pray for peace during the post-election.
-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.
In brutality too many
And too frequent to count.

But You, O Love,
Will not be divided
By a narrowness of spirit
Loving itself more than You.

You are the great unity
Of creation’s longing
The wholeness of heart
By which the world
Is constantly remade.

So let Your energy
Be the mending grace
Of humanity’s deepest longing.

Let it rise up
In resurrection power
Surprising the statistics
Which settle for spiritual smallness
Unworthy and unable
To conceive the creation
Of a world made new
Already begun by You.

So lighten the burden
Born by betrayals of the love
For which all life is birthed.

By grace unimaginable
Stir humanity’s heart
With strong strokes
Of committed compassion
Siding with the suffering
For which Your Christ
Continually comes,
And constantly heals.

Yes, Love,
Let this heart and mind
Of Thee be in me
And thus find its way
Again and again
Into the life of this weighty world

- 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.

Resources for Youth Ministry
During Annual Meeting weekend, the ISC Local Church Ministry Team presented a workshop by Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins, Pastor of Staunton St. Paul UCC, and Julie Gvillo, former Presbyterian Youth Pastor and founder of A Place of Grace. Julie shared several resources that were helpful for youth ministries. She shares them here to enrich your youth programs throughout Illinois South Conference.

- Sustainable Youth Ministry by Mark DeVries
- Family-Based Youth Ministry by Mark DeVries
- Growing Souls by Mark Yaconelli
- Contemplative Youth Ministry by Mark Yaconelli
- Messy Spirituality by Mark Yaconelli
- The God-bearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry by Kenda Creasy Dean
- Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church by Kenda Creasy Dean
- Starting Right: Thinking Theologically About Youth Ministry by Kenda Creasy Dean
- Soul Tending: Life-Forming Practices for Older Youth and Young Adults by Beverly Burton, Drew Dyson.
- The Presbyterian Church (USA) toolkits, a collective kit of "Essential
The Amazing People of ISC...

A few months ago, Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC introduced a new ministry to help people who are struggling with the cost of doing laundry. They saw a similar idea from The Carbondale Laundry Project and incorporated that idea into their program. Free laundry for those in need of financial assistance. At the Perry County Wash Tub in Pinckneyville on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10 am - 1 pm, they provide quarters, detergent, dryer sheets, and stain remover to those in need. Karen Crowl, Secretary for St. Paul UCC in Pinckneyville wrote, “Laundry is an area that people in need do not usually get help with and desperately need it. We’ve been able to help several members of our community and have found other ways to help them also. It’s been a great blessing to us all.” The next laundry day, “Let Us Suds Your Duds” will be on November 17. Here is the flyer they post around their community.

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 Conversation on 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, 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)

Volunteer Engagement and Disaster Response Positions
Open on National Level of the UCC

United Church of Christ National Ministries has two open positions on the Global H.O.P.E. (Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment.) team of Wider Church Ministries. They are for Minister for Volunteer Engagement and Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery. The application close date for both positions is November 20, 2020.

Minister for Volunteer Engagement - The Minister for Volunteer Engagement bears primary responsibility for developing and coordinating strategies, initiatives and resources related to the comprehensive UCC Volunteer Ministries Program. Full description.

Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery
The Minister for Disaster Response and Recovery leads and supervises efforts to position the United Church of Christ as a denomination fully prepared to respond to natural and human-caused disasters in the United States, and its territories. Full description.

**UCC Congregations for Mental Health Fall 2020 Webinar**

Churches from ALL UCC Conferences are invited to attend the Congregations for Mental Health Fall 2020 Webinar on **Fri, Nov 13 from 5 pm - 7 pm CST and Sat, Nov 14 from 9 am - 3:30 pm CST** sponsored by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference partnered with the UCC WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for Mental Health Network. Registration for this virtual event is $25 per person. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).

**The Season of Advent Resources.**

An Advent like no other. Knowing that, this resource has been adapted with online and streaming worship in mind. Click [here](#) to download the free 3 Great Loves Advent 2020 Toolkit.

- A sample suggested calendar
- Theme graphics
- Weekly social media graphics
- Weekly Advent video prayers on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love for use in worship and on social media. (Prayers written and recorded by UCC clergy and lay leaders from across the life of the church.)

3 Great Loves is our 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. For sharing the stories of how we, as a united church, live out God’s love in missional, measurable and meaningful ways, please visit [3greatloves.org](http://3greatloves.org). Be sure to include pictures and videos, too

**Reset for Renewal - November 12, 2020—November 14, 2020**

Reset for Renewal is a virtual conference designed for individuals who are working with youth and young adult ministries in any of the following ways: Local Churches, Conference level, Outdoor Ministries or Education/Campus Ministry settings of UCC.

We have intentionally designed this program to meet the needs of those serving young people in a variety of ways for personal development, spiritual grounding and the building of collaboration to strengthen our individual and collective witness to the Church and world.

**Registration Fees**

Full price registration is $99. For all who are able, we strongly encourage you to pay the full price as an act of giving. Because we do not want cost to be a barrier to anyone attending, we are offering a discounted rate of $49 using the code RESET50. If you still require additional financial help, or for any other questions, please contact Rev. Trayce Potter at pottert@ucc.org. Zoom connection information will be provided prior to the meeting.

Register [here](#). Registration Deadline: November 10, 2020 11:59 pm
THE SEASONS OF GIVING
Throughout the year, we give thanks for gifts that support ministry at DuBois Center. Some give in response to special request or projects, such as replacing mattresses, installing a new spillway, adding new docks. Some give in thanksgiving for gifts received. For example, a church or individual receives an unexpected gift and then shares some of that gift. Some designate memorials and even estate gifts. Some give annually. All of these are wonderful ways to support our ministry. Another option is through budgeted monthly or quarterly gifts. We would like to extend a SPECIAL THANKS to the following churches for their regular, ongoing support: St. Paul’s UCC – Freeburg, St. Paul UCC – Nashville, St. Peter UCC – Red Bud and Zion UCC – Marion.

CAMP NURSES - Servants with Sunscreen
Despite the falling leaves, it’s never too early to think about summer! We are hoping to be able to provide a full line-up of DuBois fun and adventure in 2021! One setting for ministry at DuBois Center is our Health Center. Volunteer camp nurses, most of whom are RNs, are a vital piece of our summer camp program. Many find serving at DuBois Center to be a rewarding mission opportunity, one that is quite different from their regular job. Responsibilities include reviewing camper medical forms, conducting health screenings, receiving & administering medications, providing first aid & basic medical treatment, and documentation. But when you really get down to it, nurses spend most of their time removing ticks, soothing rashes, distributing medications and providing extra TLC for homesick and nervous campers. If you are an RN, please consider serving with us for a full or partial week. The living quarters do have AC and there is often time to join us for worship, explore the woods, ride a horse or just sit back and enjoy a book. Orientation is provided. For more information, contact Alaina Scherle at alainakarn@yahoo.com or leave a message on her cell at 618-604-2540.
FALL FESTIVAL CHALLENGE

This is our last week for the Fall Festival Challenge. If you have already contributed – THANK YOU! If not, there is still time! Norma Borgmann, Nancy Wagner and the Outdoor Ministries Team (OMT) are challenging friends of DuBois Center to keep the spirit alive. We all missed what would have been the 44th year for some version of this event. We miss the families, the friends, the crafters, the music, the activities, the food and the wonderful spirit! In addition to all this, Fall Festival is typically a major friend-raising and fund-raising event for the Center. We hope you will consider donating $1, $2, $3 or more for 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.

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.

**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.

---

**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 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.

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.

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.

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.

Important Links

Illinois South Conference 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