



## Illinois South Conference COVID-19 Response UPDATE #18, Nov 30, 2020

### Advent 2020- Ideas and Resources for Online Experiences

All of Illinois is now under Tier 3 mitigation measures, which necessitates us to once again move and adapt our Advent and Christmas worship experiences to an online format, just as we did at Easter. Below are meetings, resources and links to help your congregation plan for this Holy time of year.

#### Advent and Christmas Pandemic Planning ZOOM session

Rev. Shana Johnson will be hosting a special ZOOM session this Wednesday, December 2 at 3 pm so all ISC pastors, musicians, worship committees, and all other interested members of churches can share resources and ideas of what they are doing this year for Advent and Christmas worship services and activities.

Below is the link to the ZOOM:

Topic: Advent and Christmas Pandemic Planning  
Time: Dec 2, 2020 03:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7088890946>

Meeting ID: 708 889 0946

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,7088890946# US (Chicago)



#### 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](#) in total or as individual elements of your own worship.

Gifts may be sent to: Emmaus Homes. Attn: Development, 3731 Mueller Rd., Saint Charles, MO 63301. Contact Ashley Panhorst at [email](#) or 636-699-9641 so that we can add you to the list of churches finding the worship material.

## Advent Devotional

Rev. Dr. Don Wagner is generously sharing his Advent Devotional with all of you. Rev. Wagner created the devotions and Fr. Gerald Schweitzer shared his photographs. If you feel called to give a gift in order to thank them for these talents, all gifts received in the distribution of this Advent Devotional will be divided equally and distributed to:



DuBois Retreat Center, the camping and retreat center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. These funds will be used to assist with scholarships for children and families in need at DuBois Center, and

Sojourner Truth House, in Gary, Indiana, which provides much needed assistance to women and children who find themselves homeless or in need of specialized care and assistance.

[www.sojournertruthhouse.org](http://www.sojournertruthhouse.org)



Attached is your free copy of the devotional. If you need a printed copy, contact Becky Harris at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon by email. She will make sure you get a copy.

## A Very UCC Christmas: 2020



Eleven digital hymns, a movie and a pageant of lessons and carols, produced by the national setting of the United Church of Christ, will soon be available to local churches for Advent and Christmas. Each piece will be downloadable as a video file.

The following components are coming soon:

- Eleven Digital Hymns as music videos:
- Come, O Come Emmanuel (with John 1: 1-5)
- In the Bleak Midwinter (with Luke 2: 1-5)
- Star of County Down (with Luke 1: 46-56)
- Away In a Manger /Santo Santo Santo
- Come All You Faithful
- Each Winter as the Year Grows Older - v 1& 3

- Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child
- Angels We Have Heard on High
- Little Town of Bethlehem
- Silent Night
- Go Tell it on the Mountain

**Download the Music Videos and watch for updates**

- A “Lessons and Carols” pageant service (including some of the above).
- A fully produced movie, “A Very UCC Christmas: 2020.” It will include music tracks as above and will consist of four scenes:
  - Scene 1: Board Room Brainstorming
  - Scene 2: Finance Committee Transformations
  - Scene 3: Faith Formation Finds Volunteers
  - Scene 4: Lessons and Carols

The lessons and carols will be streamed for all on Christmas Eve on Facebook and YouTube as part of the weekly “Thursdays for the Soul” series at 3:30 p.m. ET / 2:30 p.m. CT / 1:30 p.m. MT / 12:30 p.m. PT / 11:30 a.m. Alaska / 10:30 a.m. HI.

The full movie, “A Very UCC Christmas: 2020,” will be streamed on two UCC platforms (YouTube and Facebook) on Sunday, Dec. 27, at 10 a.m. ET.

**Resources from the United Church of Canada**



The United Church of Canada, our full communion partner, has done [Advent Unwrapped](#), with many ideas to inspire your Advent, including worship, music and prayers.

**Creative ways to share Advent this year**

WorshipTimes.org offers [20 ways to celebrate Advent this year](#), from community service to safe social activities.



**A Shared Epiphany Service**



The staff of the Illinois South, Heartland, and Indiana Kentucky Conferences with the help of our resident ISC video producer, Nick Luer, are in the process of creating an Epiphany Worship videos for our churches and pastor to use on Sunday, January 3. The final video and bulletin will be available mid-December. Stay tuned for the release information to be announced in Weekly Connection, on the Conference Facebook page and in emails to the pastor and church leadership of your church.

## For Those Looking to Bring Art to Advent

Visit [Sanctified Art](#) for some really creative ideas on visual arts, banners, graphic design, childrens ministry and more.



## Are You Thinking About Drive-In Worship?



Many congregations are thinking about hosting a drive-in worship service in their parking lots, particularly for Christmas Eve. A short-range broadcast through car radios means every family stays together in their own vehicle, and everyone can hear and attend safely.

Fortunately, you don't have to reinvent the wheel to figure this out. Here's a rating guide to the [Top 10 FM Transmitters](#), as a starting point for your research. The guide links to specific units on Amazon for purchases, and transmitters are in the \$100-\$200 range. If you'd like to talk to someone in person to discuss your options, try [MicroCenter](#) in Brentwood, MO.

## Together in Christ's ministry with you,

Dr. Jill Baker, Conference Moderator  
Rev. Christy Eckert, Conference Vice-Moderator  
Mr. Dwight Asselmeier, Conference Treasurer  
Rev. Ivan Horn, Conference Secretary  
Rev. Shana Johnson, IL South Conference Minister

Rev. Rosemary Captain  
Ms. Virginia Ilch  
Rev. R.J. Morgan  
Rev. Lori Schafer  
Ms. Kathleen Habermehl