Join the Facebook Live Tri-Conference Conversations between Rev. Shana Johnson, Rev. David Long-Higgins, and Rev. Chad Abbott. Our theme for our Thursday conversations in March will be “Taking a Holy Pause.” At 2 pm CST on Thursday, March 11 we will have a Holy Pause with Sacred Music, Audio Divina with the Conference Ministers of the Illinois South, Heartland, and Indiana Kentucky Conferences. Join us here at 2 pm for this live exploration of Sacred Music.

Future Conversations:
March 18
Holy Pause with Sacred Visual Art – Visio Divina
March 25
Holy Pause with Sacred Film - Cinema Divina

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...
Loving Our Neighbor: On February 21, the Men's Fellowship of Belleville Concordia UCC held a drive-

Prayer list for March 14-20, 2021
Churches & Pastors
-Biddleborn Trinity UCC, Pastor Julie Kies
-Breese St. John's UCC, Rev. James (Barbara) Donahue
Retired Pastor
- Rev. Paul Thompson, Jr., Red Bud, IL

People with Life Concerns
-Pray for the family of Doris Cross as they mourn her death. Doris is the grandmother of Scott (Christy) Pursell. Christy is the ISC Executive Administrator, and she and Scott are members of St. John UCC in Collinsville. The funeral will be at Eaton Funeral Home in Sullivan, MO on Friday, March 12. Condolences may be sent to 20 Doug Dr, St. Jacob IL 62281.
-Keep Rev. Diane Grohmann in your prayers as she deals with some health issues. Rev. Grohmann is the pastor for Edwardsville St. Paul UCC. Cards may be sent to 5438 Brick School Rd, New Athens, IL 62264.
-Please pray for Rev. P. Jerry Bennett as he deals with some health issues. Rev. Bennett serves as the pastor for Hookdale St. Peter UCC and previously was the ISC Associate Conference Minister. Cards may be sent to him at PO Box 39, Highland, IL 62249.
-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
through and take-out Chili Cookoff, raising funds to give both a cash donation and an in-kind donation of supplies for men who are military veterans dealing with homeless issues in their lives, but who are presently residing at the Eagle’s Nest in East St. Louis. The photo shows Charlie Mueth handing food to Harvey Van Buren. Congrats on your successful venture to help those in need.

When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC
If you've been fully vaccinated: You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask. You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Find out more here.

UCC St. Joe in Waterloo and served on several ISC teams. Cards may be sent to her at 309 Kroeger Ave, Dupo, IL 62239.
- Keep all pastors in your prayers.
- Pray for the United States as we work towards equality and civility for all.

UCC Upcoming Webinars
A Lenten Hour of Prayers and Reflections
Join us on Thursday, March 11 at 2:30 pm CST as UCC pastoral leaders offer up Lenten prayers and reflections from their ethnic roots and perspectives. A spiritual journey for all of God’s children. Register here.

Doctrine of Discovery Hawaii
On Tuesday, March 16 at 2:30 pm CST in their own voices, Hawaii will discuss the destructiveness of the Doctrine of Discovery past and present on their people and how it differs from the experiences of present-day Americas. Register here.

Celtic Worship
A blessing from the 19th century compendium of Gaelic prayer, the Carmina Gadelica:

- The guarding of the God of life be upon me,
- The guarding of loving Christ be upon me,
- The guarding of the Holy Spirit be upon me,
- Each step of the way,
- To aid me and enfold me,
- Each day and night of my life.

In this ongoing season of Lent and as we gather ourselves in for all to follow; pour yerself a cup of tea, wouldja, and join in on the day after St. Patrick’s Day, Thursday, March 18 at 2:30 pm CST, for some traditional Celtic music by Laureano Sanchez and worship led by Rev. Dr. Chris Davies, Rev. Brendan Curran, and Chaplain Lynn Cooper. Register here.

Building Supportive Networks in Faith Formation
In April 2020, the Wisconsin Conference UCC began offering a weekly drop-in support Zoom for faith formation leaders, both lay and clergy, to provide a safe space for faith formation leaders to talk about how they were navigating the extraordinary and sudden changes to how they engaged in this ministry. Within a short time, the group expanded to include faith formation leaders from other conferences and other denominations. This has become a community that not only shares ideas and resources, but also shares its challenges and frustrations as well as celebrates its joys and successes. Join us on Tuesday, March 23 at 2:30 pm CST for a conversation about the value of building supportive networks in faith formation. Register here. View the complete list here.
Boundary Awareness Training
For those pastors who are due for Boundary Training this year, ISC has scheduled one for Monday, April 12, 2021 via zoom from 8:30 a.m. – Noon. This training will be for both active and retired clergy. Contact Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org to register and get the zoom meeting info. Cost: $20 for retired pastors, $25 for active pastors, $25 for non-ISC retired pastors, and $30 for non-ISC active pastors.

The Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminar for pastors and lay leaders offers an opportunity to explore faithful, practical, and tested ways to promoting generosity in our congregations. The seminar draws on current research, seeks guidance from the wisdom of scripture, and discusses the best practices in church-based fundraising. Class sessions held May 19, May 26, June 2, June 9, June 16, and June 23 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm CST. Between class sessions, the instructors provide materials to help you analyze the culture of your own congregation and learn how to create change. Register today: The CGC Seminar is $150 per participant. Click here to register by April 30.

The Adese Fellowship: A catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church’s mission to create a just world for all. The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy. This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty. Find out more.

DuBois Center News

Spring Is Within Reach!
After the arctic blast and then teased by the suddenly warmer weather, we know a lot of you are looking forward to summer now more than ever! Since our last update, we have a few exciting events and ideas to share!
If you missed our last update, let’s recap!
We are currently making preliminary provisions to offer in-person summer camps complete with your favorite activities! With just a few tweaks left, we hope to have a definitive schedule to release in just a couple more weeks.
For 2021, we have several potential options that offer DuBois Center in different lights -- all contingent on the needs of the people, state of the current health situations, and governing authorities.
First and foremost, our primary plan includes in-person summer camp options! If all goes correctly, we could begin welcoming summer campers the week of June 6th. While our goal is to see all of our campers again, we need to be sure we can do that safely and effectively.
What are these other plans?

**Family Camps**
We have multiple weeks in our summer schedule offering family groups, or pods, to have a cabin or area reserved for the session. These would happen concurrently with other in-person camps and would give you the most flexibility to arrange your time with us to your liking!

Since our staff would already be on hand, we would be able to arrange scheduled lake time, horseback rides, and other activities during your stay!

**DuBois Delivered!**
In all honesty, even without a pandemic, there were always scheduling conflicts that occasionally made it difficult to attend a full week camp. This is the perfect time to introduce a new, 'out of the box' experience for DuBois Center -- DuBois Delivered!

If you choose our virtual option with DuBois Delivered, you would receive a physical box in the mail from us filled with crafts, activities, and ideas to connect with us while at home. The added value to this is the ability to virtually hang out with our counselors at different times during the week!

From the comfort of your own backyard or living room, you could experience singalongs, bonfires, vespers, or even seeing the horses!

**Join us for Open Houses! - We’d love to see you!**
We have scheduled our first open house for April 25th from 1-6pm! This would be a great way to visit camp for a while and see what we are doing to prepare for the summer! We will have volunteers on hand to show you around and to explain our evolving procedures for our summer programs.

Feel free to bring a picnic along as we will have designated areas to lounge and relax with your family!

We are asking for reservations, so please let us know if you will be there! Email to DCInfo@duboiscenter.org to get on the list! If we fill up, we have a back-up day scheduled in May.

**Continue to check in!**
We will still send these emailed updates, though our website and social media feeds are always up-to-date with the information you need!

Keep in touch with us at www.DuBoisCenter.org, as well as our Facebook and Instagram feeds. If anything changes, we will dedicate ourselves to making the necessary changes to our outlets and keeping you informed as to what is happening at your camp. Your camp is waiting for you!

---

**Hitz Home**
March is now here and that means warmer days and time outside. Our residents are looking forward to doing activities by our flower garden and underneath the shelter house. Activity staff will also be purchasing the seeds of the plants the residents wish to grow in our large vegetable garden. On March 17, 2021 the residents will be enjoying some corned beef and cabbage during our St. Patrick’s Day Party. The residents will also be making birdhouses soon to add to the landscaping. We are looking forward to Spring and the joy that it brings.
One Great Hour of Sharing - March 14, 2021
Here’s a brief update of resources.
1. OGHS packets with sample printed materials were mailed to all congregations, and links to online OGHS resources were also sent via email.
2. Since most of our congregations continue to worship virtually, additional videos were created for use in virtual settings. This video depicts the local and global reality of the pandemic and the need for “masks”:
3. The other OGHS videos will be available here.
4. Recently, we heard from one congregation that plans to receive their OGHS offering over a 6-week period (expanding the opportunity to give beyond the Sunday, March 14 recommended offering date). We are thankful for new insights and ways to take the offering.

Job Opportunity: St. John's Community Care is seeking an LPN or RN for the Adult Day Center in Edwardsville. The position is full-time Monday - Friday. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, contact Stacey at 618-344-5008 or email srhodes@stjohnscc.org.

Opportunities at Eden Theological Seminary
March 13– LIFE (Lifelong Learning) & Walker Leadership Institute – Innovation & Inspiration: Strategies for Church Leaders with Rev. Dr. Daryl Ward
Examine six principles of ministry leadership taught by Rev. Dr. Daryl Ward, who has over thirty years of administrative (United Theological Seminary) and clerical (Omega Baptist Church) experience that he will share. The seminar combines Bible and business learnings with personal experience. This course will be held over two Saturdays for three hours each week, providing laughter as we plumb the depths of divine wisdom and pulling out wonderful chunks of useful knowledge along the way! In partnership with the Urban Leadership Academy. Click here for more info.

We are spiritual beings living spiritual lives. How aware we are of our spirituality and able to engage it for perspective and practice in everyday life is the focus of this LIFE Course. Because spirituality begins with our experience of God:
- We will explore how to be present and attentive to our experience of the Holy.
- We will consider how our attitudes, relationships, and mental/emotional realities shape and are changed by our experience of the Holy One.
- Using the contexts of personal experience, home life, work life, and social/community life we will seek to deepen our capacity to consciously choose to live in and out of our spirituality to enrich all aspects of our lives.
Click here for more.

March 17 & 26 – Eden Seminary Admissions
Come and See: A Virtual Event with the Admissions Office
If you are discerning what it means to be a part of the Progressive Christian Movement, there’s no time like the present to come and see EDEN Theological Seminary! Come join the Admissions and Financial Aid Team, Professors, Degree Program Chairs and others as we present an overview of Degree Programs, Admissions process, Financial Aid and Eden’s Community! Register here.
Daylight Saving Time begins on Sun, March 14. Don't forget to Spring Forward!!

**Did you know** that (according to the Old Farmer's Almanac) the idea of changing time was whimsically discussed by Benjamin Franklin in 1784 and fanatically proposed in 1907 by William Willet, a London builder, who felt people wasted daylight by sleeping beyond the sun's rising. However, it wasn't until 1918 that the U.S. Congress passed the Standard Time Act creating time zones across the United States and the possibility of Daylight Saving Time was considered seriously. After WWI began, Daylight Saving Time was established to save fuel and to give home gardeners more time to grow food for the people.

Farmers opposed the idea. As a writer for the *Literary Digest* put it, “The farmer objects to doing his early chores in the dark merely so that his city brother, who is sound asleep at the time, may enjoy a daylight motor ride at eight in the evening.” The law was repealed in 1920 and re-established in 1941 after Pearl Harbor was bombed, and we were again at war. Today there is discussion to use Daylight Saving Time permanently. Time will tell.... (No pun intended.)

**Region 2**

*Columbia St. Paul UCC* will hold its annual Rummage Sale on Fri, March 26 & Sat, March 27, the same weekend as the Columbia's annual City-Wide Sale. Masks will be required; hand sanitizer will be provided; and social distancing will be observed for the sale. They cannot accept donations of clothing or electronics but welcome all other donations.

**Region 3**

*Brighton St. John's UCC* will hold Drive Thru Fish Fries on March 12, 19. Meal = fish or pulled pork, two sides and a dessert for $10. (bread, condiments and plastic ware included) Or purchase ala cart from white or buffalo fish ($5), pulled pork ($5), brats ($2), hot dogs ($1); sides for $1 -- potato salad, cole slaw, green beans, baked beans or mac & cheese; assorted pies and desserts $3 each; soda $1. Call ahead or drive up to place an order. 618-372-3737. Local Delivery of meals to area schools and businesses available from 11 am to 1 pm (allow one hour for large orders) Credit cards and debit cards or cash accepted. All proceeds go to support the ministries of St. John’s UCC.

**Region 5**

*Troy Friedens UCC* will host its Annual Drive-Thru Sausage & Kraut Dinner on Sun, Mar 14 from 11:30 am to 5:30 pm. The menu includes grilled pork sausage, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, & dessert. All dinners will be $10.00. If you have any questions please contact the office, 618-667-6535 or email. Friedens is located at 207 E Center, Troy, IL 62294.

*Hamel Immanuel UCC* will host a Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 21 from 11:30 am - 4 pm. Menu includes 1/2 chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cole slaw, and applesauce. No dessert. Cost is $10. The church is located 1-1/2 miles south of Hamel with an address of 5838 Staunton Road in Edwardsville, IL 62025 for your GPS.

**St. Jacob UCC** will present their Drive-Thru Strawberry Festival on May 16 from 11 am - 4 pm. Menu includes Brats, pork burgers, hot dogs sides, and strawberry desserts.
St. Jacob UCC Youth Group will Egg your yard for Easter. $20 for 20 eggs; $30 for 40 eggs; $40 for 60 eggs; $60 for 100 eggs. Order candy filled eggs in time to be delivered by Easter. Contact Dawn at smdz@hometel.com, 618-792-4316 or Brittany at bfrank17@hometel.com or 618-792-5191.

Region 8
Lebanon St. Paul UCC will host a Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 21, 11 am – 3 pm. Each meal includes ½ chicken, fried, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, coleslaw and a piece of either Chocolate Texas Sheet cake or Gooey Butter cake. Call 618-537-4991 for more information. St. Paul is located at 123 E. Dee Street, just off Rt. 4. There will be multiple drive thru lanes, so follow the signs.

Job Opportunity: Custodian
O’Fallon United Church of Christ is seeking applicants for a part-time custodian. The normal workweek will be 15 - 20 hours doing typical cleaning, maintenance and grounds duties along with preparing for scheduled activities and meetings. The work schedule is negotiable for daytime and evening hours. Applicants can contact the committee through the Church office 618-632-3496 or by contacting Allen Garner 618-910-2913 or Ted Lewis 618-977-8184.

Job Opportunity: Music Director
St. John’s UCC of Smithton, IL is seeking a part-time Music Director for 20-25 hours per week. The Music Director will select, play and lead music for worship services. They will collaborate with the worship committee and pastor, and also establish opportunities for other music-related activities within the church. See their website for areas of responsibilities and qualifications.

Job Opportunity: Church Organist/Musician
Grantfork UCC is looking for a musician to support our inspiring music program and help it continue to thrive. We are looking for someone who is willing to play the pipe organ and/or the piano and/or the electronic keyboard for traditional worship services once or twice a month. (When services are virtual, this needs to be pre-recorded during the week. When services are in-person, this needs to be live on Sunday mornings.) An interest in directing one or more of our adult choirs - Men's Choir (gospel/Gaither), Ladies’ Choir (traditional), Women's Ensemble (contemporary), and Chancel Choir (holiday services, cantatas) - would be a plus, but is not required. Musician will work in cooperation with the current music director, Connie Plocher, to determine schedule, and with the pastor. Pay will be determined according to the number of weeks willing to serve. To express interest, please contact Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul at 618-675-2595 or grantforkucc@agtelco.com.

CCLI Announces Loop Community
Loop Community provides worship leaders with quality and affordable multitracks, hardware, software & training. Loop makes running tracks easy so you can focus on leading worship. Save 10% off your first order at Loop Community using code CCLI10. Expires March 31st. Visit Loop Community here.

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 DuBois Center information, registration for upcoming events and camp sessions, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org.
To speak with the Conference Minister, contact Rev. Shana Johnson 618-882-8247 or sjohnson@iscucc.org.

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 Deaconess Foundation
Deaconess Nurse Ministry DuBois Center Ecuador Partnership
Eden Theological Seminary Emmaus Homes Hitz Memorial Home
Hoyleton Youth & Family LIFE Program Unleashing Potential New Athens Home
Pension Board-UCC St. John's Community Care St. Paul's Sr. Community
UCC Insurance Board Uplands Village UCC Campus Ministry Uni-Pres Kindercottage