Day of Discipleship
May 1, 2021
9:00a.m. to 12:00 noon
Via Zoom (you can log in half hour before the event)

**Strengthening the Ties that Bind Us Together**

Here are your workshop choices:

**WORKSHOP #1** – “Blest Be the Zoom that Binds”
Panelist – Rev. Christy Eckert, St John UCC
Trenton and Dale Ritzel, COGS, Carbondale
Learn more about using Zoom for worship services, meetings, & staying connected. Join a frank discussion about pros & cons, costs, what works & what doesn't, & future possibilities for using Zoom.

**WORKSHOP #2** – “From the Mail Box to the Zoom Box: Communicating Effectively with Multiple Generations.”
Panelist – Rev. Michelle Torigian, St Paul UCC
Belleville
This past year has made us rethink much of the way we communicate with each other. While many are embracing Zoom, others are still relying on newsletters, phone calls, and radio. Let’s talk about creative ways to communicate with ALL generations in our churches and communities to ensure that no one gets left out of our communications.

**WORKSHOP #3** – “From Virtual to Hybrid—How do we choose?”
Panelist – Katie Hotze-Wilton, Eden Theological Seminary
There is so much technology to choose from and so much to learn. What questions should we be asking? And who will become the tech steward? Finding the answers together.

---

**Prayer list for**
**April 11 - 17, 2021**

**Churches & Pastors**
- Centralia St. Peter UCC, Pastor John Pawloski
- Collinsville St. John UCC, Rev. Katie Jo (Craig) Bielke, Associate Pastor

**Retired Pastor**
- Rev. Dr. Paul and Debbie Schippel, Centralia, IL

**People with Life Concerns**
- Please pray for the family of Rev. Douglas Anders as they mourn his passing. Rev. Anders served several churches in the Missouri Mid-South Conference, then served as the Conference Minister for the South Central Conference of the UCC, served as the Acting Conference Minister for Illinois South Conference of the UCC in 2015-2016, as well as Summer Sabbatical Pastor for New Hanover Zoar UCC and Interim Pastor for Concordia UCC in Belleville in 2017. A memorial service will be held via Zoom hosted by the Kirkwood United Church of Christ in Kirkwood, Missouri, on Sat, April 10 at 10 am CDT. Click [here](#) on that day and time if you wish to attend. Cards of condolence can be sent to his mother, Fumiko Anders, 90 Greendale, Normandy MO. 63121. Click [here](#) to read the article written by National UCC staff about Rev. Anders and his life in the UCC.

- 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
WORKSHOP #4 - “Live-streaming Your Church Events”
Live-streaming is not as scary as it sounds. With the expertise of two of our ISC churches that have been live-steaming their services, you can learn why you should and how you can implement live-streaming, as well as learn how to avoid the pitfalls of live broadcasting.

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.
- Pray for the healthcare workers and families dealing with COVID-19.

WORKSHOP #5 – “Mental Health & Isolation During the Pandemic”
Panelist – Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Grantfork UCC & Rev. Lori Schafer, St John Midway UCC Moro
We focused last year’s Day of Discipleship on mental health, having no idea that just a few weeks later we would be thrown into a pandemic that none of us had before navigated. We will discuss isolation caused by the pandemic, the rise in suicides in the past year, and ways to help as told by some of our WISE congregations (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged).

WORKSHOP #6 - “Town Hall Conversation with Low-Tech & No-Tech Congregations”
Panelist – Rev. Andy Wilson, St John’s UCC Smithton & Rev. Rosemary Captain, St John UCC Fairview Heights
Are you a member of a low-tech or no-tech congregation, and are you feeling overwhelmed by all the technological demands of the pandemic? Do you feel like your congregation is being left behind in ministry and outreach because your congregation is not technologically savvy? This breakout session will talk about engaging in fruitful ministry, even though they are not serving technologically advanced churches. Also, this will be a space for open dialog and exchange of ideas for all churches (laity and clergy alike) to share their experiences.

- Fee for the event: $25/person. Registration link. If you need assistance with the fee, please contact the ISC registrar at jriebmann@iscucc.org
- Schedule for the day:
  8:45 am - 9:00 am  Participants log in
  9:00 am - 9:30 am  Opening devotion and presentation of schedule
  9:30 am - 10:10 am  Workshop 1
  10:20 am - 11:00 am  Workshop 2
  11:10 am - 11:50 am  Workshop 3
The 40-minute workshop times are intended to offer the last ten minutes (at least) for questions and comments from the attendees. Ten-minute breaks between the workshops will allow all participants to get away from their screens for a bit and choose their next workshop. All six sessions will be available for all three workshop times.

Space to Put Our Best Foot Forward
The DuBois Center office needs your help to replace the DuBois Center office flooring so that the new Acting Director, Hayley Elliott can “put her best foot forward” in her new position at DuBois Center. An office update, started in late 2017, needs to be finished. The Conference Property Committee has undertaken the lead on this project and identified these necessary updates:
- Prepare and paint all interior walls and ceilings,
• Replace all ceiling light fixtures,
• Remove carpeting in one office,
• Level all floors,
• Install all new baseboard trim and
• Cover all floors with new laminated flooring.

Currently the office has four types of flooring, of which all are not level from room to room. Some small areas might be old asbestos tiles and some areas are down to the sub-floor, as you can see in these photos.

Volunteers have offered to provide the labor to do everything except lay the new flooring. Dave Hoffmann, Co-Chair of the Property Committee, has secured a price of just under $9,000 for the new flooring materials and installation. The Conference Council Executive Committee has given approval for this work; however, we lack a big portion of the funds to start with the floor replacement. That’s where you come in – your donations, your intent to donate, or your skill in laying flooring is needed soon to “put our best foot forward” in welcoming Hayley to the Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center.

Donations are welcomed from individuals, churches and/or their organizations. Checks can be sent to the ISC office at 1312 Broadway, Highland IL 62249 or click here to donate online. Designate your donations to the DuBois Office Flooring Project.

If your group plans to donate or raise money to donate to this, please contact Julie at 618-357-1809 or email jriechmann@iscucc.org.

If you or your group have experience with this type of work and want to volunteer to help, contact one of the ISC Property Co-Chairs: Priscilla Self at 618-318-0083 or pji48@hotmail.com or Dave Hoffmann at 618-791-7002 or davehoff95@gmail.com. Thank you very much for your support.

ALL CLERGY ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR VACCINATIONS

In Illinois, all clergy are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. To schedule an appointment, please check with your local health department. Keep in mind, you might need to bring verification materials of your profession. Verification materials could be a recent payroll stub, a copy of your W2, or a business card. If you need a clergy card that validates your standing in the Illinois South Conference, please reach out to Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org.

Hayley Is Here!! Hayley Elliott has officially begun her two-year contract as Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry. After an extensive search process which included: Zoom interviews; submissions of candidates’ faith journeys and personal theology; a strategic plan of staffing, programming, finances, and partnerships for the coming year at DuBois Center; checking candidates’ professional references; and an onsite tour of DuBois, the Search Committee unanimously recommended Hayley to serve as the Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry.

Hayley Elliott was born and raised in West Virginia, where love of nature and earth were instilled in her from a young age. She spent most of her formative summers at church camp and has fond memories of learning to swim, making friends, playing games, and learning the importance of faith
formation in this setting. As she grew up, she began volunteering at camp and eventually became a camp counselor. Hayley received a B.S. in Business Administration from Mars Hill University. Her undergraduate capstone project was related to the digital and social marketing of camps and how to reach new audiences and form new partnerships. After completing undergraduate studies, Hayley entered Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, where she completed an MTS (Master of Theological Studies) degree. While in divinity school, Hayley furthered her commitment to youth education by working at a local elementary and middle school as the lead counselor in their afterschool and summer programs.

After graduating from Vanderbilt Divinity School, Hayley and her wife, Rachel, moved to Denver, Colorado so that Rachel could complete a yearlong CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) residency. During this time, Hayley worked full time as an anti-money laundering analyst while maintaining an additional role as a co-director for youth and children at Sixth Avenue UCC and sharing her gifts at LaForet Conference and Retreat Center, the Rocky Mountain Conference's camp. Hayley is very passionate about outdoor ministry within the United Church of Christ and excited about the future of caring for God's creation and extending God's extravagant welcome at DuBois Center! And from all of us at Illinois South Conference...Welcome aboard!!!
Save the Date for the 3rd Annual Pastors’ Retreat sponsored by the ISC Local Church Ministry Team on Wednesday, May 12 at 10 am to Thursday, May 13 at 2 pm at the Mercy Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The retreat will be based on the book, Pursuing Pastoral Excellence by Paul Hopkins. We are planning on a mixture of free time activities, such as walking the labyrinth or the beautiful grounds as well as indoor and outdoor safe (based on current CDC guidelines) socially distanced group activities.

**Vacation Bible School Schedules**
June 1 - 4; In-Person; 9 am - 12 pm; St. John UCC; Maeystown, IL; Theme: *Knights of the North Castle*
June 21-25, 2021; In-Person; (tentatively) 8:45 am - 12 pm; St. John UCC Mascoutah; Theme: *Rocky Railway*

**No Vacation Bible School for These Churches**
Addieville Zion United Church of Christ

**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.

**Volunteer Communications Coordinator Needed for ISC Justice & Mission Team**
The ISC Justice and Mission Team is looking for a volunteer to join our focused and hard-working group. If you have a passion for justice, you can be of great help to us by:
- Attending monthly Team meetings (the 2nd Tuesday of the month on ZOOM until we can meet in person)
- Receiving progress reports on Team projects and distilling that data into effective communications to create content for email blasts, Facebook posts, Weekly Connection articles, etc.

This volunteer position requires a self-starter who is anxious to seek new opportunities for spreading the word about issues of justice, mission, and peace. The benefits are the same as for any volunteer position—camaraderie with a great group of folks and the satisfaction of contributing to God’s mission of justice for all Creation. If you are interested or have questions, contact Jerry Bennett at 618-560-9282 or pjerrybennett@hotmail.com or Kay Ahaus at 618-520-1790 or kayahaus@yahoo.com.

**Job Opportunity: Zion United Church of Christ in New Baden**
Zion United Church of Christ in New Baden is seeking candidates for an office administrator. This is a full-time position, with typical secretarial duties and assisting with our community food pantry. Interested applicants can go to [www.zionuccnb.net](http://www.zionuccnb.net) for an application link or contact the church office at 618-588-4135 for more information.

**Job Opportunity: Church Organist/Musician**
Grantfork UCC seeks a musician to support our inspiring music program. Best candidate should be willing to play the pipe organ and/or the piano and/or the electronic keyboard for traditional worship services once or twice a month (Virtual services will be pre-recorded during the week. In-person will be live on Sunday mornings.); an interest in directing one
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.

Region 5
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.

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK
All Conference staff are 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, contact Hayley Elliott at 618-787-2202 or director@DuBoisCenter.org.
For DuBois Center 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

Facebook Twitter Instagram