



April 27, 2021



Just Imagine

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry

because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” --James 1:19

Recently, I took my email off of my phone. I did this for two reasons. First, for the preservation of my relationships. I found myself obsessively checking my email trying to always be present and available for others, which often meant I was not fully present and available for myself or loved ones in the moments I had set aside for rest, renewal and reconnection.

The second reason was I was trying to get caught up quickly so I wouldn't have to face an overflowing email box the next morning. I would read an incoming email without thoroughly comprehending the content. I find this to be one of the most difficult things about emails: I find it hard to hear and listen to the full message from the other person. In an email, I cannot read someone's face or body language. I cannot hear the tone of their voice or the inflections in their speech. And sometimes this causes misunderstanding.

While emails might seem more efficient, they can be problematic. Think about the last time you tried to keep track of a lengthy conversation within an email thread. Sometimes I imagine email threads to be like one person coming in your door to share an idea or option and then immediately leaving right before another person comes through the door to share their idea or opinion on the subject or even something completely different. To make matters more complicated, while the other person is waiting in the hallway to jump in to make their voice known, they only hear snippets of what others have said, which confuses matters more. For me, email threads can often feel like a bad game of “telephone” because it is hard to listen to all the voices in the conversation.

Another way emails can be problematic is when someone wants to talk about a difficult subject in writing rather than in person. We have all been guilty of this. It is much easier to send something

Prayer list for May 2 - 8, 2021

Churches & Pastors

-Dupo Christ UCC, Rev. Todd
(Suzanne) Mushaney
-Dupo First Congregational UCC

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter,
Hamel, 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.

- 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.**

off in an email than pick up the phone and face our discomfort in entering into a hard conversation.

As a general rule, it is never a good idea to send an email when we are upset, anxious, angry, or maybe even tired. Too many times you have either written an email or read an email which illustrates the danger of what can happen when we do not employ this rule. I try to have a personal rule that if I am upset, anxious, or angry I don't send the email or a reply to an email for 24 hours. I don't want to say something I will later regret if I have not given myself time to process what I have heard, experienced, or would like to communicate.

In the last couple of weeks, I have witnessed quite a few email misunderstandings. Times when people were not being heard. Times when people were misunderstood. And when words are unwisely chosen, they can cause emotional harm and damage to relationships.

I wonder if the writer of James was reflecting on those times when they experienced people not being heard, people being misunderstood or people not wisely choosing their words when they wrote this simple gem of profound advice, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." This is not only wonderful advice when it comes to emails, but also just plain wonderful advice in all the ways we communicate and connect with others.

Imagine if we were slower to push send. Imagine if we were slower to think about what we wanted to say next. Imagine if we were slower in processing what others were saying, putting ourselves in their shoes, and seeking clarification. Imagine if instead of being quick to become angry about our assumed intent. Imagine if we asked the Spirit of God to help us listen so we might more fully hear and understand others AND also ask the Spirit of God to give us the right words at the right moment to speak. Just imagine...

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Protecting Yourself from Spam and Scam

Have you been getting spammed with emails asking you to verify your purchase, your credit card, your address, or other personally identifying details? These occurrences are not just happening in big cities. This criminal activity is affecting us locally, too. Recently, criminals have been sending emails meant to appear as if they are from local pastors - asking you for help and to send money. The biggest problem: the pastors never sent those emails. The authors of this article are working computer security issues as our profession, so we were asked to help with some easy to follow advice and guidance that all of us can use to make it harder to be scammed.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article--a valuable use of your time!!!

About the authors, Fred Klapetzky, CISSP, is the CEO and Principal Consultant for A Going Concern, inc. (fred@agoingconcern.com). Gared Seats, CISSP, is Cyber Security Engineer for Accenture Federal Services. Jodie Seats has a Masters of Science in Information Assurance.

You are invited to join the Conference Ministers of Illinois South, Indiana Kentucky and Heartland Conferences this Thursday at 5 pm CDT on YouTube for the second in a two-part series of meetings to help you think about and prepare for hybrid worship. **April 29: Tools and Tech**, will focus on the tools you need to have a successful experience.

- What kind of tech will I need?
- How to build it on a budget
- What do I do if I am not "tech savvy?"
- How does it all work together?
- What do we do "if?" Use this [link](#) to see it.





STRENGTHENING THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER
Day of Discipleship - May 1, 2021 - via Zoom

LAST CHANCE - DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP IS SATURDAY, MAY 1

Need some help with knowing the best way to use Zoom? Click [here](#).

Here are your workshop choices you will

make on Saturday.

WORKSHOP #1 – “Blest Be the Zoom that Binds”

Panelist – Rev. Christy Eckert, St John UCC Trenton and Dale Ritzel, COGS, Carbondale

WORKSHOP #2 - “From the Mail Box to the Zoom Box: Communicating Effectively with Multiple Generations.”

Panelist – Rev. Michelle Torigian, St Paul UCC Belleville

WORKSHOP #3 – “From Virtual to Hybrid—How do we choose?”

Panelist – Katie Hotze-Wilton, Eden Theological Seminary

WORKSHOP #4 - "Live-streaming Your Church Events”

Panelists: Rev. Jeremy Wood, Salem UCC, Alhambra and Rev. Don Wagner, St. Paul UCC, Lebanon

WORKSHOP #5 – “From Despair to Hope: Addressing Mental Health & Suicide”

Panelist – Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Grantfork UCC & Rev. Lori Schafer, St John Midway UCC Moro

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

Fee for the event: \$25/person. Registration [link](#). *If you need assistance with the fee, please contact the ISC registrar at jriechmann@iscucc.org*

Schedule for the day: 8:45 am - 11:50 am

Check out these [resources](#) for the workshops & beyond!!

ATTENTION: Zoom regularly provides new versions. We recommend upgrading to the latest version before logging into Day of Discipleship (or any other zoom meeting) in order to have the latest breakout room features (which we will use for workshops). You can download the upgrade by clicking [here](#).

DuBois Center News

Now Hiring! We still have open positions for summer 2021. Feeling God calling you to serve in a new way? Know a college student who needs excellent

experience learning new skills? We’re looking for people like you! We currently have openings for housekeeping staff, kitchen staff, nurses, and counselors/activity coordinators! Contact 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@duboiscenter.org for more information or to apply!



Open House at DuBois Center

It was great to be with those who were able to be there at our Open House Sunday, April 25! The energy in the air of having a group back on site was fantastic. We blessed our new bees, said hello to the horses, and modeled what our summer cabins will look like with our COVID-19 precautions. If you missed this Open House, be sure to

check out our website and social media pages for some of what you missed!



Posters, slides and more! Summer Camp Resources are in the mail and online

Summer Camp is back at DuBois Center, but we need your help to get the word out. We're making resources available to you through the mail and [online](#). Your church will be receiving

promotional materials from us this week. Watch the mail for a package with posters, bulletin inserts, camp schedules, postcards, and fliers that can be posted, copied and shared. You'll also find a letter from Hayley Elliott, our new Acting Camp Director, Top 10 Things Churches Need to Know about Summer Camp 2021, and suggestions for ways you can help us promote camp this year.

The Resources for Churches [page](#) on our website has electronic versions of the promotional materials that you can download and print. It also has slides you can download to include in your pre-service announcements. The slide sets are available in two different size, 16:9 or 4:3. You can download them from this Resource for Churches [page](#) by clicking on the appropriate link toward the bottom of the page. Choose whichever works best for your system.

Other Printable Resource

- [Greetings](#) and COVID-19 considerations
- Top 10 [Things](#) Churches Need to Know about Summer Camp 2021
- [Promote](#) Your Camp – a few helpful suggestions
- Bulletin [Inserts](#)
- Camp [Schedule](#) two ways – full page
- Camp [Schedule](#) – half page
- Leadership Experiences And Development [flier](#)

To see complete descriptions and pricing for each camp, click on the appropriate age group.

[Adults & Children](#); [Grades 1-3](#); [Grades 3-7](#); [Grades 5-9](#); [Grades 8-12](#).

May you experience the way our creation and Creator hold us in the coming week!

Flooring Replacement

The DuBois Center office needs your help to replace the DuBois Center office flooring.

An office update, started in late 2017, needs to be finished. 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. The cost, just under \$9,000, for the new flooring materials and installation has been approved by the Conference Council Executive Committee. Now, we need to raise a big portion of the funds to start the floor replacement. Your

donations, your intent to donate, or your skill in laying flooring is needed to complete the job.

Donations of money, time or installation skills 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.

A HUGE THANK-YOU to this week's donors: **Lebanon St. Paul UCC** for their \$700 donation.



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Hello from Uni-Pres Kindercottage

They're back!! Kindercottage staff and children have missed you but have been

busy with many activities at Uni-Pres Kindercottage. It has been a L-O-N-G winter, and everyone is very ready for spring and summer!

They are grateful for your kind gifts both at the holiday seasons and in-between. The children loved their Christmas gifts, and appreciate all that you do for them. They thank you for continuing to remember them with your donations, prayers and many blessings.





Pictured left, you see school supplies were given to families with school-aged children. Birthdays (above right) were celebrated ! (YAY, I'm 2!) Kids (right) made pictures to encourage the sun to bring pretty flowers! Because spring is approaching, they need your help to clean and chase away the winter dirt.



A SPRING CLEANING DAY is scheduled for May 15

beginning at 9 am. If you can help, please bring your buckets, rags, gloves, mowers, rakes and tools for possible repairs. They will have bagels, donuts and coffee for your breakfast, but ask you to bring a sack lunch if you can stay past noon. Mark your calendar for May 15 Spring Cleaning Day. Your help is appreciated!



The Hoyleton Hybrid 2021 Hike & Bike will be on May 8. You can participate virtually, at your preferred location, or at the Maeystown Course from 8 am– 6 pm. The registration fee is \$20 which includes one T-Shirt. All T-shirts can be picked up on Friday, May 7 from 5 pm - 7 pm or all day Saturday at St. John UCC Maeystown. Click [here](#) to register. Share photos or videos with #HikeandBike2021 and post to St. John, Maeystown [Facebook](#) page. Call Pastor Poole at 618-458-6940 for more information. All proceeds benefit Hoyleton Youth and Family

Services. Click [here](#) for a flyer.

St. Joh's Community Care Offers GrandPads to Seniors

We are sure we can all agree when it comes to technology, less frustration on the user end makes for a more enjoyable experience. These pads are extremely simple to use. A limited number of Pads are available for clients or family members who need a way to connect to information virtually. St. John's Community Care provides the pad, internet services (WIFI), and instructions for use in person and in writing. Anyone can borrow a pad, but there is a deposit that they keep until the pad is returned. No charge for the internet or the pad. Contact 618-344-5008 to check on availability.



St. John's Community Care offers **Coffee Talk with Caregivers**, an informational group created for caregivers. This group will cover a variety of topics to help support and educate those who care for people living with dementia. It will meet on the last Monday of each month from 1 pm – 2 pm on Zoom. It is their hope that participants of this group will see a decrease in the feelings associated with caregiver burden, improvement in family relationships and caregiver confidence, and an increase in caregiver knowledge and problem-solving abilities. The next session will be on Monday, May 31. If you are interested in participating, email Stacey Rhodes at srhodes@stjohnscc.org.

3 Great Loves is UCC's 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, go to 3greatloves.org. Be sure to include pictures and videos, too! **Here's a sample story:** In this pandemic year, the Tri-Conference of the UCC (Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota) launched an effort committing to educated and raise awareness on the issues of Climate change. This April, a shared service of



worship was offered after Easter and churches were encouraged to participate in a Climate Change Sabbath in honor of Earth Day. Their efforts encourage a community effort to preserve our planet, and to inspire action towards that goal. A toolkit was also developed and shared to offer theological perspectives, insight and resources to help make the case for action on the moral imperative for action on climate change.

Mental Health Sunday - May 16

As the month of May approaches, many congregations are preparing for Mental Health Sunday on May 16 as a part of the designation of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. To assist in your liturgical preparation, we offer this new resource, *Radical Belonging: Mental Health Sunday Liturgies and Resources for All*.

This downloadable resource, available in both a PDF and a large print Word document, is for any congregation of any denomination that wishes to become a place of radical belonging. It was created in prayer and partnership between the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network and The United Church of Canada, with generous contributions by Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, the United Church of Christ's Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. Within it, you will find liturgy that challenges the systemic sins that create "otherness" and ableism, resources that share the stories of people living with mental illness and disabilities, and words of grace and celebration for the opportunities we have as the Body of Christ to love, care for and accept one another.

As our communities slowly emerge from the collective trauma of COVID-19, the losses of the pandemic weigh heavily on our lives and communities. Within this context, The United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network join their voices in calling faith communities to become intentionally inclusive places where God's Kingdom manifests through relationships of mutual respect for all people, including those living with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, neurodevelopmental differences, brain disorders, and their families.

Download [here](#).

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

90th Birthday Celebration

Rev. Dr. Paul (Debby) Schippel will be celebrating his 90th birthday on April 29, 2021. The family is planning two surprises for him: a card shower and a car parade. They would like as many of his friends and colleagues to participate in the celebration as possible.

If you would like to participate in the CARD SHOWER:

Mail card to him at: 1002 E. 2nd St, Centralia, IL 62801 or email tockeysuzanne@gmail.com

If you would like to participate in the CAR PARADE:

On May 1 at 3 pm, the car parade will gather at the old IGA on the east side of town on 161. The parade leaves at 3:30. Details will be shared with participants. Rev. Schippel will be sitting on the corner in front of his house.



Register now 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. Click [here](#) for a flyer. To register, contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org.

Vacation Bible School Schedules

June 1 - 4; In-Person; 9 am - 12 pm; St. John UCC, Maeystown; Theme: *Knights of the North Castle*

June 1 - 4; In-Person; 9:30 am - 12 pm; St. Paul UCC, Waterloo; Theme: *Knights of the North Castle*

June 21 - 25; In-Person; (tentatively) 8:45 am - 12 pm; St. John UCC, Mascoutah; Theme: *Rocky Railway*

July 19 - 21; Virtual; 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm; Salem UCC, Alhambra, Theme: *Knights of North Castle*

July 19 - 23; In-Person, 6 pm - 8 pm; St. Peter UCC, Red Bud; Theme: *Knights of North Castle*

July 19 - 23; St. John UCC, Collinsville; Theme: *Wilderness Escape*

No Vacation Bible School for These Churches

Addieville Zion United Church of Christ

Job Opportunity: Part-Time Secretary for Pinckneyville St Paul UCC

This position requires excellent people skills in working with the Council, Pastor, Music Leader, committees, and Sunday school teachers. Strong computer skills using Microsoft Office and worship software is important. Must be an independent worker. This position is essentially the church office manager for keeping the calendar, publishing newsletters and setting up for worship services. Typical office hours are 8:00-12:00 noon, Monday Through Friday. However, we may be shifting those hours to accommodate the church reopening. To apply, send resume with references to: St. Paul UCC, 205 Jackson St., Pinckneyville, IL 62274 or stpauluccpinckneyville@gmail.com.

Job Opportunity: Part-Time Music Leader for Pinckneyville St Paul UCC

This position requires excellent people skills in working with the Council, Pastor, secretary, committees and Sunday school teachers. Music skills include the ability to play a piano and a Wick's two-manual pipe organ with pedals. Good vocal skills are a plus but not required. The church does not have a choir but occasionally has special instrumentalists and vocalists. Sunday school children will often perform a song which may or may not require support from the Music Leader. Church services are currently 10 am – 11 am on Sundays with two services on Easter and special services for Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Advent and Lenten services are typically rotated with two or three other churches. To apply, send resume with references to: St. Paul UCC, 205 Jackson St., Pinckneyville, IL 62274 or stpauluccpinckneyville@gmail.com.

Job Opportunity: Director of Faith Formation and Care

St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois, seeks a Director of Faith Formation and Care (30 hours per week). Job responsibilities include:

- Planning and executing the church's education program for all ages in collaboration with the Senior Pastor and Christian Education Team
- Sustain and expand the youth group
- Assist in worship elements
- Assist with and lead funerals as needed
- Visit congregants who are hospitalized, in long-term care facilities, and homebound

Please send a resume and three references to FaithFormationDirector@stpaulucc.org.

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 second 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: Office Coordinator

St. Paul United Church of Christ (Belleville) is looking for an Office Coordinator, an individual who will manage daily operations and maintain office supplies and records; coordinate, plan, and execute church events; create publications and worship bulletins; understand office equipment; greet members and visitors; assist volunteers; navigate various forms of technology. Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Google Drive/Docs required. Some knowledge of video editing as well as using the Zoom, Constant Contact, and Onrealm platforms is preferred. Please send resume with references to officecoordinatorsearch@stpaulucc.org.

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 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.

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.

Salem UCC in Alhambra will hold a Rummage Sale on Thurs, April 29 from 3 pm - 8 pm; Fri, April 30 from 8 am - 7 pm; and on Sat, May 1 from 8 am - 12 pm. Fill a bag for \$5. Food available for purchase. Proceeds go toward Salem's future mission trips.

Region 8

New Athens St. John UCC will hold its Fried Chicken Dinner To Go on May 2 from 11 am - 2 pm (or when they are sold out). Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn, slaw, and dessert. Drive thru or carry out. Adults \$12; Children 10 and under \$6.

Region 9

Belleville Concordia UCC will hold its Carry-Out Chicken Dinner on Sun, June 6 from 11 am until they are sold out. Menu includes 1/2 fried chicken with all the "fixins," Carry-out only. Quilt raffle tickets sold for \$5 each with a limit of 200 being sold.

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](#)

