The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Mascoutah St. John UCC's Fellowship Ministry has developed a "Car Parade to the Food Pantry" to make giving to their local food pantry an event. On May 5, the 6th Car Parade to the Food Pantry brought sixteen cars together to parade to the Mascoutah Food Pantry and delivered 340 food, personal hygiene, and cleaning items. At least three more car parades are scheduled on June 2, July 7, and August 4. What a creative way to show support for those in need!

Prayer list for June 6-12, 2021

Churches & Pastors
- Freeburg St. Paul's UCC, Rev. Rick Mortimer
- Godfrey Congregational Church, Rev. Richard (Sarah) McCreary

Retired Pastor
- Rev. Michael & Elizabeth Marx, Sr., Owensboro, KY

People with Life Concerns
- Pray for our grocery store employees, our Hunger Action Partners.
- Pray for those who are hungry.
- 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.

Happy Father's Day

As we approach Father’s Day, I reflect upon my physical father and the ways he reflected my spiritual father. Of course, my physical father was not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, and he struggled to do God’s will as we all do.

First, he was loving and kind to his children. As an adult, I see that even when he was disciplining us and showing us consequences for our actions, he did it in a kind and loving way. It was firm. It was not us that he was disappointed with, but the action or non-action we thought we could “get away with.” My value was not in question, but my behavior was. He said it this way, “We want you to understand that you are not being punished because you took a pinch from the cake, but because you lied about doing it. We love YOU, but not lying about anything.” I can see God doing the same for spiritual children.

Second, my physical father could be a fierce adversary if he felt he needed to be. He had a high standard for himself and his children and, sometimes, he thought the entire world should live up to his high standard. And when that did not happen, he was not afraid to stand up, tell the world to listen up, and expect them to come to their senses. I can visualize my physical father also standing in the Temple saying, (Matthew 21: 13) “It is written,’ he said to them, 'My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.’” Or as he actually said, “It is wrong to steal. You will need to go back to the store with me, return the gum, and apologize.”
Third, he was faith-filled. He told me that when he was young, he and his brother looked to the heavens to see what their paths should be. They both saw the letter “P”. His brother was to preach, and he was to plow. His spirit was filled with the faith needed to pursue the path destined for him. And so, he said to me, “Just because you are a girl, doesn’t mean you can’t go out and do something special.” I am grateful that at a time when women were not encouraged to follow a different path, I had a father to show me the way...just as I rely on God to do for me now.

Lastly, he was faithful. There was an understanding in our family that whatever happened, he and my mom would help us to make the best of the consequences. He may be worried. He may be disappointed. He may disagree with my solutions. But he was willing and faithful in standing by me through failures and successes. And I know that God has my back every day.

So happy Father’s Day to all of you. May love, kindness, strength when necessary to be an adversary, faith to follow God’s path and faithfulness to God and your fellow humans be what you celebrate every day of the year.

Blessings, Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator

The honor of your presence is requested for the Installation of Rev. Dana Schindler Sunday, June 13 at 3:00 pm CDT Immanuel United Church of Christ Hamel, Illinois

With restrictions being lifted, any clergy that chooses to robe and attend the installation are welcome. Please wear red stoles and arrive by 2:30 pm. Please RSVP to pastoriucc@gomadison.com. The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook @ Immanuel UCC-Hamel. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ announces that June 27 is National Open and Affirming Sunday. Always celebrated on the fourth Sunday of June, the Coalition created ONA Sunday as an opportunity for congregations to renew their commitment to support LGBTQIA+ neighbors and their families. On June 7, an inspiring worship and music video, along with worship resources to help you build your own ONA service will be released. Let’s celebrate the rapid growth of this movement, hold the 1,700 ONA churches and ministries in prayer, and commit to growing the movement until the UCC is not just 33%, but 100% ONA.

Hunger/Food Action Committee News
Bread for the World will be hosting their Midwest regional online meeting on June 8 at 12 pm CT (45 minutes). Contact our regional coordinator, Zach Schmidt zschmidt@bread.org to register. (If you are interested, I encourage you to register even if you cannot make it, so you’ll automatically receive the recording and follow-up info.) These quarterly meetings are an opportunity to hear about the progress and next steps for legislative advocacy to help our neighbors facing hunger and to connect with other Bread members in the region. We’ll also lift up some of the great work being done by Bread members and churches over the past few months.

Reparatory Justice and Reparations: Truth-Telling, Conciliation, and Healing
A webinar on June 9 at 5 pm CDT will discuss the Case for Reparations, a national and global movement for people of African descent—enslaved Africans and their descendants globally. Reparatory justice is also needed for descendants of Indigenous peoples including Native Americans, Latin Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders/Hawaiians whose legacies include, genocide, theft of land, the denial of legal and human rights, and forced labor to build the wealth of Europe and U.S. territories. During this digital program, you will be introduced to a new
Reflections on New Things
If you had told me a few months ago that in the span of about seven weeks I would begin a new job and jump through what felt like one million hoops to re-open a camp that had been closed due to our global pandemic, I am quite certain I would not have believed you. It is not that I shy away from hard work or that I do not see its value. It is that I am not often one to sacrifice what is safe and familiar for what is risky and difficult. In my life, I have been an example of what to do, and what not to do, when God calls you to a new thing. What I have learned in the last seven weeks, as I sprinted toward the “finish line” of being legally allowed to open camp this summer, has been that sometimes what we are called to do and be in our world does not come easily. As we successfully transition into our new summer dynamic, I encourage all to ask what it is that God has called you out of your state of familiarity to do. I have personally always found the end goal to be worth the risk. I hope to see you this summer at DuBois Center, and that you and your family enjoy God’s abundant love this summer! – Hayley Elliott, Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry

Summer staff has arrived!
On May 26, our summer staff began staff training at DuBois Center. We have been diligently cleaning the property, team building, readying the waterfront, and training on diversity, group development, and first aid scenarios. We can’t wait to welcome you back to DuBois Center starting Sunday, June 6! Camp names have been chosen, cabins assigned, and mattresses cleaned. We will see you this summer at DuBois Center!

Registration is open!
We still have room in many of our early camps for your campers of many ages to join us! While many of our camps are now full, we still have room for your campers in Settler, X-Plore, Splash, Trail Mix, Nature’s Lab, Saddle ‘Em Up, and other camps! Scholarships are available on a first come, first served basis through our registrar’s office at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org. We hope to see you this summer at DuBois Center!

We Need You - We’re Not Done Yet!!
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 four types of office flooring are uneven; some areas may be old asbestos tiles; and some areas are down to the sub-floor. The cost is just under $9,000. The new flooring materials and installation has been approved by the Conference Council Executive Committee. Donations of money, time or installation skills are welcomed from individuals, churches and/or their organizations. Checks should be made payable and sent to the ISC office at 1312 Broadway,
May Is Older Americans Month

Older American’s Month is celebrated each year in May. It has been an opportunity to celebrate the gifts that our Older Americans bring to us in our families, communities, and churches. It is especially important, during this unusual year, to celebrate this population and the challenges they may have faced through isolation and anxiety as well as the joys they have experienced in learning new ways of communicating with loved ones.

Below are the links for three ways to watch the worship service video. You can download or play directly from these pages.

St. John’s Community Care You Tube channel [link]. St. John’s Community Care [website].
Or view it through this ZOOM [link]. Passcode: 3*gksLxq

Click [link] for an order of service/bulletin to use when watching the video.

Please share with your congregation or anyone you feel might enjoy the music and message.

Read more about Older Americans Month 2021 – May. If you have any questions, contact Missy at mathmer@stjohnscc.org.

What’s Happening in Illinois South Conference

Boundary Awareness Training

For those pastors who are due for Boundary Training this year, ISC has scheduled one for Monday, July 19, 2021, via zoom from 8:30 am – 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.

Save the Date for the ISC Annual Meeting 2021 - Weekend of October 15.

- Friday, October 15 – Celebration of anniversaries in the life of ISC
- Saturday, October 16 – Business meeting of the ISC

Depending on CDC guidelines, The Conference Gatherings Team plans to hold an in-person/livestreamed evening of celebration and a virtual business meeting. Watch your inbox and the Weekly Connection for more details this summer.

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 7 - 10; In-Person; 6 pm - 8:30 pm, Friedens UCC, Troy; Theme: Rocky Railway
June 7 - 11; In-Person; 9 am - 12 pm; St. Paul UCC, Columbia; Theme: Knights of the North Castle
June 7 - 11; In-Person; 8:30 am - 11:30 am; St. John UCC, Valmeyer; Theme: Rocky Railway
June 7 - 11; In-Person; 9 am - 12 pm; Evangelical UCC, Highland; Theme: Roar
June 7 - 11; In-Person; 8:30 am - 11 am; St. Peter UCC, Okawville; Theme: Adventure Island
June 14 - 20; In-Person; 8:30 am – noon; Christ UCC, Dupo; Theme: Knights of North Castle.
June 21 - 23; In-Person; 6 - 8 pm; St. Paul UCC, Belleville; Theme: Discovery on Adventure Island
June 21 - 25; In-Person; 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; In-Person; 9 am - 11:30 am; St. John UCC Collinsville; Theme: Wilderness Escape
July 25 - 30; In-Person; 5:30 pm - 8 pm; St. Paul UCC, Carlinville; Theme: Mega Sports Camp

No Vacation Bible School for These Churches
Addieville Zion United Church of Christ
Pinckneyville St. Paul United Church of Christ

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 E 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.

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.
Job Opportunity: Director of Music - Ferguson, MO
Immanuel UCC, Ferguson, MO, is seeking a Director of Music. The position oversees and provides leadership for the total music ministry of a pre-COVID-19, 300-member church. Responsibilities include playing the Wicks pipe organ and grand piano for up to two services each Sunday. Previously, the Director of Music duties included a volunteer adult choir and adult hand-bell choir, overseeing a children's choir, preparing music for seasonal services, etc. with activities on Wednesday evening, Thursday evening and Sunday morning for nine months, then reduced summer hours while choirs break for the summer
Previous church music experience and a degree in music is preferred. Previous experiences will be reviewed on an individual basis. Salary is competitive. Submit a resume, salary requirements and references to info@immanuelucc.org or call 314-521-7324 between 8 am – 1 pm on Tuesday through Friday for more information.

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
So we can better serve you, here is a list of your Conference staff and who you should contact, given your church’s needs:
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