The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...
Thank you to the Women’s Fellowship Board of Godfrey Congregational Church for taking part in the Illinois South Summer Hunger Action Challenge! The group stepped up to the plate, collecting close to one thousand pounds of food as well as providing a financial gift of $885 to the Crisis Food Center in Alton. Thank you for feeding your neighbors.
It’s not too late to take on one of the Summer Hunger Action Challenges. Check out the details on the “ISC Resource” page. If you have questions, contact Carol Shanks at 618-920-2904 or shanks@htc.net.

Prayer list for June 13-19, 2021
Churches & Pastors
- Godfrey Evangelical UCC, Rev. Jerald (Lori) McCaskey
- Granite City St. John UCC, Rev. Karla (Rev. Charles Preston) Frost
Retired Pastor
- Rev. W. Curtis and Martha Lee, Newburgh, IN

People with Life Concerns
- Pray for our fast-food workers, 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.

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 is welcome. Please wear a red stole 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.

I Want What I Want When I Want It
When my children were growing up, we had a neighborhood friend who seemed to be unaware of the needs of the rest of humanity when it came to his own needs/wants. I would explain to my children that “he wants what he wants when he wants it.” In ways, the thought of it was sad to me.
because he did not seem to realize how important cooperation could be when we are navigating the world. Recently, it was pointed out to me that we, as homo sapiens, can show a similar attitude when it comes to all other living species. I am as guilty as the next person. I want air conditioning, so I do not need to sweat, and sleep comes easy. Never mind the resources that need to be used to provide me with that luxury. I want a yard with no weeds, so chemicals are sprayed to contain them. Never mind the impact this may have on the birds I love to watch. I want lumber for building and paper for books. Never mind the forests that are clear cut to get it, affecting the land, vegetation and animals housed there. It seems we homo sapiens take a bit of knowledge and think we have all the answers. But in reality, “if our knowledge were dynamite, we would have just enough power to blow our noses.”

God has created an amazing system of which we can only understand a miniscule part. I pray for guidance to consider all of nature, rather than wanting what I want when I want it.

Blessings, Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator

Welcome, Elena Larssen! UCC's new Minister for Volunteer Engagement

The Rev. Elena Larssen started work May 1 as the UCC’s Minister for Volunteer Engagement. She will oversee a menu of volunteer opportunities for UCC members, including Partners in Service, Young Adult Service Communities, Summer Communities of Service and U.S. mission trips. Volunteers also rebuild homes as part of Global H.O.P.E.’s disaster recovery work. Her first assignment is organizing volunteers for the UCC’s 2021 General Synod. Read more about Larssen.

Recent grants from UCC Global H.O.P.E.

UCC Global H.O.P.E.’s domestic grantees in April included two Texas churches damaged in the 2021 winter storm:

- Grace UCC, Houston, $3,000 for the insurance deductible and reconstruction costs not covered by insurance. The church is eager to reopen its six-days-a-week day care, which serves the children of many essential workers. And two congregations - Grace and a Sudanese church - are eager to resume worship in the sanctuary.
- Friends Congregational Church, College Station, $1,000, which it requested for the insurance deductible, “so that we do not have to take money out of our funds that are used to further our church missions.”

International grantees included:

- $10,000 through ACT Alliance for relief for people buffeted by political conflict in Ethiopia’s Tigray region.
- $10,000 to the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue for food baskets and PPE in Lebanon and for displaced Syrians.

Click here for details of grants approved January through April 2021.

Yale Institute for Sacred Music presents a 4-part Zoom webinar series with audience Q&A on Monday, June 21, Thursday, June 24, Monday, June 28 and Thursday, July 1 at 3 pm CDT. Panels of experts from different fields will probe these and more, examining what can be learned from our experience of the pandemic.

- How can we provide better care for the dying, and meaningful funerals or memorials for those who have been lost?
- What can history teach us about how our ancestors coped and ministered in times of plague?
• How do we think theologically about the effect of COVID-19 on faith communities amid God’s eternal presence and promises?
Series Moderator will be Thomas G. Long, author of Accompany Them with Singing—The Christian Funeral; Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Panelists are: James Abbington; Dawn DeVries; Vanessa Harding; Jennifer L. Hollis; John Horan; The Rev. Michael L. Lewis, S.T.L.; Jennifer McBride; The Rev. Kevin Parke; Markus Rathey; James M. Starke; The Rev. Khalia J. Williams and others to be announced. For more information and free registration, click here.
Artwork above: Time to Heal; (c) 2016 by John August Swanson; Giclee, 16.5" x 13.5"; www.JohnAugustSwanson.com

Are You Ready for a Little Friendly Competition?
This Special Edition General Synod presents a unique opportunity for people from across the nation to attend General Synod without the burden of travel expenses or time away from family and work. The event is packed full of activities, worship, and workshops that are designed to give you a glimpse into the UCC and allow you to access information and educational resources that will help you and your local congregation in leadership, growth, and giving. We believe it is possible for a member from every congregation in the UCC to attend, and we would like to invite you to make that happen with a Congregational Challenge! We will tally registrants based on their UCC conference and provide periodic reports so that you can check and see how your conference is doing. We will base the leaderboard on the percentage of attendance, by congregation, within an individual conference. Every conference has the chance to take the #1 leadership spot!
Who would benefit from attending?
• Pastors
• Council/Consistory Members
• Committee Chairs & Members
• Ecumenical partners in your community
• Laity
• Youth (6th - 12th grade)
• Ministry Teams
• Worship Leaders
The winning conferences will be announced during our Evening of Celebration on July 15. Register today to ensure that your conference is at the top of the leaderboard!
Can we count you in for the General Synod Congregational Challenge? Register today!

Speakers at General Synod
Valarie Kaur is a social justice activist who leads campaigns for civil and human rights. When a Sikh family friend was the first person murdered in a hate crime after 9/11, she made her first film on hate violence in America. Since then, her story-based advocacy has helped win policy change on hate crimes, racial profiling, immigration detention, solitary confinement, marriage equality, and Internet freedom. Find out more.

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor is president of Sojourners and author of Mobilizing Hope: Faith-Inspired Activism for a Post Civil Rights Generation and forthcoming book, A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community. Taylor also serves on the Global Advisory Board of Tearfund UK and is a member of the inaugural class of the Aspen Institute Civil Society Fellowship. Find out more.

Get ready for Prime Day on June 21 - 22. Sign up for AmazonSmile and select Illinois South Conference Of The United Church Of Christ as your preferred charity here. Remember to shop for deals at smile.amazon.com, or with AmazonSmile ON in the mobile Amazon app, and AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of your purchase to us at no cost to you.
Upcoming UCC Webinars
During the month of June, the UCC will feature webinars highlighting the various intersections for navigating Black Lives within the Christian Church.

Wednesday, June 9 from 5 pm – 6:30 pm CDT
Reparatory Justice and Reparations: Truth-Telling, Conciliation, and Healing: During this digital program, we will introduce a new learning platform engaging the denomination in An Interactive Educational Study Guide on Reparatory Justice and Reparations for the Christian Church in the 21st Century. Register here.

Thursday, June 17 at 2:30 pm CDT
United Black Christians (UBC) Celebrates Juneteenth: On Thursday, June 17th at 2:30 pm CDT, come and celebrate with UCC’s United Black Christians (UBC) as they celebrate the historic significance of Juneteenth to our UCC congregations, especially our African Descendent churches. Register here.

Friday, June 18 at 11 am CDT
A Juneteenth Celebration with Stories and Sacred Music: Listen to lives of African peoples through 4-genres of storytelling and music. Experience the long history of first peoples despite the interruptions, setbacks, and tragedies. Journey with us through sacred music, spoken word, and creative expressions of joy, sorrow, and praise. Register here.

Campers are here!
This week, we welcome Just You and Me, Horsin’ Around, and Quest to DuBois Center! Campers will engage in horse activities, Blast, fun on the water, archery, creek walks, and more while they spend their week here. We are actively working to make sure our campers enjoy a safe, fun summer! We still have some slots available for campers to enjoy DuBois Center this summer, so register online today!

Camp Names
When we are born, our parents give us the name that they see for us. Sometimes, those names are passed down through a family. Sometimes, it is the gut feeling they have. For my family, my parents workshopped the name “Hannah” for me throughout my parents’ pregnancy, and when I was born, they decided to go with “Hayley” instead, thinking that it fit a little better of who I was becoming before their eyes. For some of us, the name and identity we were assigned at birth do not sit well as we begin to develop, so we choose a different name. For some of us, we choose to take or hyphenate our spouses’ name upon marriage. All in all, it is not very often that we engage in the practice of choosing our own names. At camp, our staff go through a renaming process, where each gets to live into a chosen name. Some of them come from legends and jokes; some of them come from hobbies and interests; and some of them choose us. For example, I became “StingRey” as I was first stung by a bee at an open house event at DuBois Center. I think stingrays are cool animals, and Rey from Star Wars is one of my favorite movie characters of all time. We welcome Fog, Nala, Kermit, Bubbles, Ringo, Thunder, Gizmo, and Lemon to our counselor team this summer, and welcome Sharkbait, Simba, Mango, and Kiwi to our leadership team!
Rainbow Camp 2021 registration is open! Camp will be Sat, Aug 7 at DuBois Center, from 9 am-7 pm. It is a full day, and you can be as active or as relaxed as you like. We’ve got everything from horseback riding and archery to pontoon rides and crafts in the craft grotto overlooking the lake. Rainbow Camp was started for LGBTQ+ folks and straight allies. This year, we extend a special invitation to neurodivergent folks to join us, too. Everyone is welcomed as a whole child of God at DuBois Center. Register by going to [www.DuBoisCenter.org](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org), click register, and search under Day Camps. Secure the early bird rate by registering before July 18. Rainbow Camp is a whole lot of fun in the sun - come join the party. Click [here](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org) for a flyer.

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, Highland IL 62249 with a notation that it is for the flooring or click [here](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org) to donate online. 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. Thank you very much for your support.

Deaconess Nurse Ministry Offers Tips for a Healthy Summer:

1. Get enough sleep. There are so many exciting events during the summer, but make sure you get at least seven to nine hours of sleep at night.
2. Move more, take some time to enjoy the outdoors, plan to do exercise for at least 150 minutes each week. Some of the good ways to get exercise include cleaning up the house, doing yard work, making a trip to the swimming pool, taking a walk, a bike ride with family and/or friend.
3. Make sure to stay hydrated with water instead of alcoholic or sugary drinks, wear sunscreen, and insect repellent while you are outside.
4. Eat a healthy diet, adding more vegetables and fruits to your meal is a great way to eat healthy during the summer. You can even start a small garden which will keep you more active, be outside more and provide fresh produce.
5. Gratitude. Each day, find a moment to reflect on things that brought you happiness and good feeling. Being grateful and positive can help you thrive and live a healthy life.

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ announces that June 27 is National Open and Affirming Sunday. ONA Sunday is an opportunity for congregations to celebrate Pride Month and reaffirm their commitment to inclusion and justice for their LGBTQIA+
neighbors. The Coalition offers a complete worship video, with music, and resources for worship at this [link](#). Please be sure to credit the ONA Coalition. ONA Sunday is also an opportunity for members of your congregation to recite your Open and Affirming Covenant as an act of faith after the sermon and make a re-commitment to uphold those values through mission, ministry, and advocacy. In this year, when legal maneuvering and state legislation are threatening LGBTQIA+ rights across the country, your neighbors need to know that your faith impels you to action.

The Insurance Board presents a webinar, “Liability Lowdown for your ministry: Protecting Your Congregation from Abuse” on Thursday, June 17 at 1 pm CDT. The church should be a safe place for people to worship, work, connect and receive care and support in a manner that is free from abuse. Attorney James Abbott offers considerations your ministry can take to provide a safe environment for everyone. Also, Insurance Board’s very own, Cy McFarlin, Director of Claims Administration, and Monroe Moore, Senior Claims Analyst, will be on hand to discuss claim trends impacting ministries within the denominations we serve. Register [here](#). Read [more](#) about what the Insurance Board can do to protect your church from abuse.

**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 opursell@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 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; 9 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**
- **June 28, 29 & July 1**: In-Person; 9 am - Noon; Community VBS held at St. Paul UCC, Lebanon; Theme: **Wilderness Escape**
- **July 19 - 21**: Virtual; 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm; Salem UCC, Alhambra; Theme: **Knights of North Castle**
- **July 19 - 23**: In-Person; 9 am - 11:30 am; Fieldon UCC, Fieldon
- **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

**Region 2**
**Zion UCC - St. Joe** will hold a BBQ in the Rural King parking lot in Waterloo on Sat, June 19 from 11 am – 3 pm. Features Schneider's Quality Meats, pork steaks, brats, hamburgers, and hot dogs.

**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@immanueltucc.org or call 314-521-7324 between 8 am – 1 pm on Tuesday through Friday for more information.

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

Facebook  Instagram  Twitter  LinkedIn  Google+  TikTok