Pastors’ Prayer and Lectionary Lunch Hour
All ISC pastors are invited to join the Prayer and Lectionary Lunch Hour for a time of camaraderie, prayer, and sermon help. The Local Church Ministries team has continued to host this time on Wednesdays from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, which began during COVID and continues to provide a time for support. ALL ISC pastors are welcome on any Wednesday they are available. The group is meeting via Zoom by using meeting ID 837 0733 6906. (This same number will be used every week.) Link to the meeting at the specified time: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707336906

Summer Hunger Action Challenge
Thank you to the volunteers from Cahokia Bethel UCC (above) and Columbia St. Paul UCC for feeding hungry children in the Cahokia community. Volunteers with the TWIGS program distribute lunches in Cahokia on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please let the Illinois South Hunger Action team know what your church is doing to address hunger this summer. Maybe it is a special offering, collecting food for your area pantry or sharing garden produce. Email your church story to Carol Shanks at shanks@htc.net.

Prayer list for July 11 - 17, 2021
Churches & Pastors
-Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate, Sr. Pastor
-Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Tarrah (Jason) Vaupel, Associate Pastor
-Jamestown St. Paul UCC
Retired Pastor
- Rev. Andrew and Sandra Kramer, Belleville, IL

People with Life Concerns
- Pray for Rev. Bob Coffey as he deals with health issues and hospitalization. Rev. Coffey is the Pastor at Lenzburg St. Peter UCC. Cards may be sent to 6213 Jo Ann Dr, Belleville, IL 62223.
- Pray for Truckers transporting food, 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.

To Be Known & Remembered
Every year, my grandchildren and I take a vacation together. We have vacationed in busy cities, like New York City and Chicago, and to places of nature, like Yellowstone and South Dakota. The destination is not the real “prize” of the vacation. For me, the “prizes” are seeing their faces as they experience life in another part of the country, getting to know each other individually, and creating a memory so that my essence will be carried on when I can no longer be here to vacation with them. This year, as always, gave us those opportunities.
While standing on a dock over the clearest lake I have ever seen, Lake Crescent in Washington state, a man approached us and leaned on the rail as if he was hiding behind my granddaughter. I saw my granddaughter’s concerned face and asked if we could help him with something. He whispered, “I’m here to surprise my girlfriend and propose to her. I wonder if you would videotape me on my phone as I ask her?” I was pleasantly surprised, excitedly took his phone, and followed him as he approached her. It went smoothly. He was on one knee, and she said yes. Hugs and tears followed. (The tears were coming from my eyes too, even though I did not know them at all.) I handed him the phone and went back to my grandkids with eyes still dripping with tears. My granddaughter said, “I bet my brother that you would be coming back crying! I was right.” To me, this was the best thing she could have said. It meant that she knows me and knows the appropriate time for tears to fall. I hope that in the future, when tears are appropriate, she will say, “If Grandma L was here, she would be crying about now.” I want to be known. I want to be remembered.

So as a child of God, I want to know God as my grandchildren know me. I want to remember God as I hope my grandchildren will remember me. I want to be grateful for this trip that God has taken me on, even if the trip has not been without difficulties (like our cancelled flight). I want to be grateful for every plant, animal, bird, and insect that have crossed my path. I want to be grateful for the entirety of God’s creation and vacation, here and now. Please, God, let it be so.

Blessings, Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator

The honor of your presence is requested for the
Installation of
Rev. Jeremy R. Wood
Sunday, July 18, 2021, at 4:00 pm CDT
Salem United Church of Christ
Alhambra, Illinois

Any clergy who chooses to robe and attend the installation are welcome.
Please wear a red stole and arrive by 3:30 pm.
Please RSVP to salemuccalh@gmail.com.

The service will also be streamed over the internet at https://livestream.com/accounts/10389497
and click on the image of Salem Church under Live & Upcoming Events.
The service will be available for viewing any time after it has begun.
A reception with light refreshments will follow the service.

UCC Wellness Ministries Update:
A new Wellness Ministries Toolkit is coming. The complete toolkit will be posted online in a book format that can be easily searched and read. Active links will lead to additional information that enables readers to go deeper into the topic of interest.
There are 3 sections to the Wellness Ministries Toolkit:

- Section 1: Envisioning Wellness Ministries - Providing the who, what, why, how, where of Wellness Ministries
- Section 2: Establishing or Enhancing Wellness Ministries
- Section 3: Wellness Ministries of Care - experienced leaders explain the details of various programs they have offered.

Want to learn more? Email: wellnessministries@ucc.org
An Overview of Wellness Ministries is a recently produced short video that will premiere at the Health and Wholeness Advocacy exhibit at General Synod. After General Synod, it will be added to the Wellness Ministries section of the UCC website.
Health Tips During Hot Weather

Staying hydrated is necessary for health. The hot weather of summer makes this even more important. The United States Department of Agriculture’s Nutrition section offers information on water, hydration and health.

The American Heart Association adds staying hydrated is important for heart health. An educational poster can share information about symptoms of dehydration. The CDC lists Warning Signs and Symptoms of Heat-Related Illness.

Many areas of the country are currently experiencing extreme heat days. Extreme heat is a period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two to three days. Extreme heat is responsible for the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards. Ready.gov offers advice for how to stay safe when extreme heat threatens. This is a time to check on older individuals and those with underlying health conditions who are at higher risk for heat-related illnesses.

The American Academy of Pediatrics provides information for parents on Protecting Children from Extreme Heat and also information to Prevent Child Deaths in Hot Cars.

A special note about pets during extreme heat: The Humane Society of the United States offers pet safety tips and the ASPCA also offers hot weather safety tips.

UCC - Exploring a Move of Church House

A report from the United Church of Christ Board affirms exploration of a new home for the UCC Church House. Read more...

Volunteers needed – July 11 – 16

We are still in need of a few more volunteers to make our summer at camp complete! For July 11 – 16, we need six female volunteers and three male volunteers to counsel. We are expecting an overly full house of campers next week, which is exciting but cannot happen without these additional volunteers. Volunteer counselors must be 18 or older! If you or someone you know is interested in giving back to the youth of our churches and our region, please fill out our volunteer application, found here, and email it directly to Hayley at director@duboiscenter.org. We appreciate your support in our summer like no other!

Praise for Our Summer Staff’s Efforts.

When you become part of a new organization, it is often difficult to determine what the “backbone” of support for that organization is. Often, the backbone shifts depending on the situation. In an unprecedented time, a small but mighty team of 13 individuals said, “I’m in!” to making summer camp happen for our campers this year. Faced with the challenge of being about 7 staff members too short, and many other challenges that come with reopening a facility after almost two years, they have maintained incredible attitudes, displayed remarkable flexibility, and perhaps most importantly, displayed God’s Kindness, Love, and Inclusion to the youth of our churches and area. Joined by many volunteers, they have served over 200 youth at our camps, helped secure new business by extending welcome and kindness to guest groups on site, and even done many manual labor tasks around the property as needed. They have done this all while following our guidelines to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread at our facility and helping keep our campers and their families safe. If you know someone who is on
our 2021 summer staff or has given a week of their time to volunteer and assist us in pulling off this unprecedented summer, please send them your gratitude! They have taught me many lessons this summer in having grace under pressure and living into our most flexible natures. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. 

*Photo shows counselors from left to right Kermit (aka Leah Hill), SharkBait (aka Ryan Goetter), and Minnow (aka Bailey Avise-Rouse). They are shoveling sawdust to replace dirty sawdust which had been removed from the barn stalls.*

Blessings, Hayley Elliott, Acting Director of Outdoor Ministries

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**Rainbow Camp 2021 registration is open!**

Camp will be Sat, Aug 7 at DuBois Center, from 9 am-7 pm. It’s 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.


Rainbow Camp is a whole lot of fun in the sun - come join the party. Click [here](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org) for a flyer.

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**Flooring Is Ordered!!**

The DuBois Center office needs your help to pay for the DuBois Center office flooring.

The cost is just under $9,000, and we are not quite there. Thanks to those who have donated so far. We need your help to finish it off. Checks should be made payable and sent to the Illinois South Conference 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.

Thank you very much for your support.

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The Board Members of St. John’s Community Care and a few volunteers (many from St. John UCC in Collinsville) worked for days on end weeding, planting, pulling out overgrowth and putting down rock, and in the end, created a butterfly garden area to house a Courtyard Garden Party on Sunday, June 27. The party honored the donors and showed them how their support has helped so many of St. John's Community Care clients. See more photos of the gathering [here](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org). Read more about the event.
Insurance Board - COVID-19 Liability Considerations for Ministries
On July 15 at 1 pm EST, the Insurance Board presents a webcast to discuss the important role churches play in their communities and how many are eager to resume their ministry’s activities and outreach. This webcast will provide guidance on current COVID-19 HR and liability considerations for all ministries. The presenter, Dean Rocco, Attorney and Partner from Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman and Dicker LLP, is a Chair of the firm’s National Employment and Labor Practice Group and will share his expert insights about COVID-19 liability considerations for ministries. Click here to register.

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services Back to School Supply Drive
Hoyleton Youth & Family Services needs supplies to help their clients for the upcoming school year. Here’s how you can help...
Visit their Amazon wish list here.
From that list, shop on your own and drop off at one of these locations:
• Auffenberg Kia - 106 Auto Ct., O’Fallon, IL
• Auffenberg Ford - 115 Regency Park, O’Fallon, IL
• Auffenberg Ford - 901 S. Illinois St., Belleville, IL
Or send a monetary gift by check with "School Supplies" in the memo line to Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, #8 Executive Dr Ste 200, Fairview Heights, IL 62208
Click here for more information as a flyer.

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services Golf Classic will be held on Friday, August 20 at Tamarack Golf Course in Shiloh. For more information, contact Meghan Murphy at 618-688-7092 or mmurphy@hoyleton.org

What’s Happening in Illinois South Conference

Vacation Bible School Schedules
July 19 - 23; In-Person; 9 am - 11:30 am; Fieldon UCC, Fieldon; Theme: Go Big
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
July 25 - 29; In-Person; 6:15 pm - 8 pm; St. John's UCC, Smithton
August; In-Person and Zoom; every Sunday during the month of August following Children’s Time during worship (around 9:15 am); Salem UCC, Alhambra; Theme: Quest for the King’s Armor at Knights of North Castle; ages 3 years old through 5th grade. Please send your child’s name(s) and ages to Emily Uhe at either emily.uhe90@gmail.com or 618-972-5686.

Job Opportunity: Worship Arts Director
Highland Evangelical UCC is searching for a Worship Arts Director, who will be responsible for overseeing the directing, planning and program development of the music program of the Church. The Director serves as a resource to support, foster, and coordinate the worship life of the congregation through congregational, choral, and special music and other visual worship experiences and reports to the Senior Pastor. For more information, click here. Send resume to EvUCC at BBray@evucc.org.

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 handbell 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.

**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.

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**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.*

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**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

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