



July 20, 2021



### The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

This Sunday, July 18, the members of Collinsville St. John UCC held a special

congregational meeting to not only adopt their new Open and Affirming covenant, but also to amend their bylaws, so that marriage at the church can include two committed individuals. This day was the culmination of two years of study and discernment that included guest speakers, bible studies, films, and one-to-one conversations and story sharing. The process felt "drawn out" for some committee members, frustrated after putting the discussions on hold during the pandemic, but the wait certainly paid off! Both the informational meeting on July 11 (part of their church's procedure before congregational meetings), and the meeting itself were well attended and supported by the congregation. Their vote of affirmation was 94%!

They hope to become a beacon of hope in their town of Collinsville and are committed to continual learning about hospitality and "widening the welcome" for all people!

This is the statement they adopted:

"We at St. John United Church of Christ believe in a God of profound inclusion and extravagant hospitality. We seek to extend God's love and grace to all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic, social and educational status.

We will continue to widen the welcome to all people as they share in our communal, worship and

sacramental life, our mission, leadership and stewardship, and the blessings and challenges of being the Body of Christ."

### Prayer list for July 25-31, 2021

#### **Churches & Pastors**

-Lebanon St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dr. Don (Nancy) Wagner  
-Lenzburg St. Peter's UCC, Rev. Bob Coffey

#### **Retired Pastor**

- Rev. Dr. Robert E. and Jay Lee, Swansea, IL

#### **People with Life Concerns**

-Please pray for the family of **Virginia C. Ginny Jahnke** as they mourn her death on July 5. Ginny was a housekeeper and cook at DuBois Center for 20 years until her retirement. Services were held July 10. See the complete obituary [here](#).

-Pray for **Rev. Bob Coffey** as he deals with health issues. Rev. Coffey is the Pastor at Lenzburg St. Peter UCC. Cards may be sent to 6213 Jo Ann Dr, Belleville, IL 62223.

-Pray for **Meals on Wheels volunteers**, 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**.

They join eight other ISC churches as ONA churches: Brighton St. John's UCC, Cahokia Bethel UCC, Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd, Central City Zion UCC, Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Marion Zion UCC, Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC, and Wood River St. John UCC. Congrats to you all.



### Irvington UCC Food Pantry Receives Donation

After the only food distribution site in Washington County had to close their doors, 10 UCC churches in the county established the Irvington UCC Food Pantry in 2008 to fill the needs of the people. It is housed in the parsonage of Friedens UCC in Irvington. The pantry is self-governed by a Ministry Team of one representative from each of the 10 UCC churches, three local UCC Pastors and a local UCC treasurer and secretary. The pantry is a member of the St. Louis Area Food Bank system and receives USDA and purchased food items (at a minimal handling fee) each month. Generous donations of food, hygiene products and money are received from the UCC churches and members, as well as several other local churches, individuals and organizations. Members of each of the local UCC churches take turns distributing the food and hygiene items weekly

on a set schedule of a Saturday morning or a Sunday late morning to early afternoon. Thanks so much to the many churches, individuals, groups and organizations for their donations of time, talent, and treasure to provide sustenance for our neighbors. Pictured is Rev. Stacy Tate, Pastor of Irvington Friedens UCC, receiving a generous donation from a representative of Gateway FS.

### God Is Still Speaking

In preparation for a move, I found a book of poems written by Verna Landolt, a deceased member of Highland Evangelical UCC. The book was published by her husband after her death in 1976. Verna was a farmer's wife, and she wrote poetry because she wanted to, not because she was paid to do it. Poetry came to her family and friends as a gift for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and more. As a young woman, it impressed me that she would take the time to do that for friends and family. It was a role model that I have tried to emulate by writing just because thoughts come into my head. There has always been an inner drive that tells me these thoughts MUST be written down without guarantee that it will mean anything to anyone else. I have often said that the words come from somewhere other than me and these thoughts/words amaze me at times. But it all came clear as I read Verna's introductory poem...

My Poetry

You say you like my poetry. I can't take credit, why?  
You see we are a trio –God, Mr. Webster, and I!

If my poems have a message, it's very plain to see  
It's God that's speaking to you. He's simply using me.

--Verna Landolt

Since I have found joy in reading her poetry after so many years of being stored in a box, I have hope that the words given to me to write will make an impact on someone many years in the future. And so, God is still speaking!!



The honor of your presence is requested for the

### Installation of

**Rev. Steven Boorsma**

Sunday, August 15, 2021, at 3:00 pm CDT

St. John United Church of Christ in Valmeyer, Illinois

**Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer**, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ will give the message at the Installation.

*Any clergy who chooses to attend the installation are welcome. Please robe and wear a red stole and arrive by 2:30 pm.*



### Churches in Transition

**Rev. Nancy (Stephen) Gamache will complete her ministry as Interim Minister at St. John UCC in Summerfield and United Church of Christ in St. Jacob on August 1.** Illinois South Conference thanks

her for her dedication and ministry there.

**ISC welcomes Pastor Philip Barbier** who will begin his ministry at St. Jacob UCC and Summerfield St. John UCC on August 1. We welcome him to our ministry as a conference.

### Hunger Action Update- It's harvest time in many of our gardens.

Make the best use of your garden produce. Don't let it go to waste!

#### Squash Casserole

5-6 med. Squash (can use yellow or zucchini) sliced

3 T. Butter

1 cup cracker crumbs

1 beaten egg

½ cup milk

Dash pepper

½ teaspoon salt

1 medium chopped onion

1 cup grated cheese

Cook squash & onion in a small amount of water, then drain. Add pepper, butter, cracker crumbs, ½ of cheese, egg & milk.

Place in casserole dish. Top with remaining cheese. Bake 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Thank you to Donna Alstat from Lenzburg St. Peter UCC for this yummy squash recipe.



### UCC Disaster Ministries in need of Church World Service Kits

Disasters affect us and others each year. There are hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, floods and storms. It's not a matter of if, but when. One way to help those affected by disasters is assembling Church World Service Kits and donating them to be ready for distribution when needed. Plan now to organize

a Kit Fund or Kit Assembly Event for your church, group, organization, family, neighbors or individually.

Completed kits can be shipped or taken to Kit Depots, but a great cost saver is this **one-day CWS Drop Off at LifeWise of St. Louis on October 9 from 9 am – 11:30 am**. Their address is 1321 South 11th Street, St. Louis, MO. 63104. This drop-off event is in a safe area and easy to get too. It is well organized with good signage and volunteers to unload your vehicle(s). If you need information or assistance with logistics, please contact Priscilla Self, your Illinois South Conference Disaster Ministries Response Coordinator, at [pjj48@hotmail.com](mailto:pjj48@hotmail.com) or 618-318-0083.

Drop-Off sites will also be available in the Evansville, Indiana area this fall.

Check out the Church World Service [website](#) for a list of items for each kit and more information.

The UCC Disaster Ministries has \$250 Kit Grants available – to apply or get more information, click [here](#).



Provide **Hygiene Kits** to

make all the difference for struggling families.



Give children in poor communities

and refugee camps basic tools for learning by donating **School Kits**.



**Emergency Cleanup Buckets** for flood, tornado, or other disasters recovery.

**Amy G.S.A. Brooks, an ISC Member in Discernment, has penned a book of poetry, *Another Scroll: Defiant Readings for Lectionary Year C*, and was published by Pilgrim's Press.**

Preordering is available [here](#).

You have been told to study the ancient texts. Has no one ever given you permission to read -- and to keep on reading -- until you find yourself between the pages?

To the Revised Common Lectionary schedule of readings for Year C, Amy adds another scroll of holy texts: gritty, fiercely loving, justice-minded poems that defy theological oppression. *Another Scroll* offers a poetic reflection on scripture for each Sunday and feast day, helping the texts to unfurl in courageous affirmation of the reader.

As Amy notes and *Another Scroll* upholds: "Beloved, in case no one has told you: you are whole, you are holy, you are wholly loved."

Amy is a cisgender, queer, Australian-born poet and pastor, who loves a good cup of hot tea and hates mornings. Amy is deeply familiar with grief and trauma; she finds truth and meaning in the spaces where humanity encounters the Divine.

## DuBois Center News



### **Eagle Project Complete**

Thanks to Tom Krueger for choosing to complete an Eagle Scout Project on site – building ADA ramps at the Deer Run Cabins! Continuing to increase the accessibility of our site is just one way we live out our call to welcome all people to enjoy God's creation here at DuBois Center! Tom and a crew completed this project on Saturday, July 17. Thank you, Tom!

If you would like to volunteer time or resources to aid us in continuing to increase the accessibility of our property and program, please reach out or watch the Weekly Connection and the DuBois Center [website](#)/Facebook [Page](#) for information on how to volunteer in the future.



### **Recognizing our Kitchen and Maintenance Staff**

In the world of summer camps, there are often very public personalities, but it's the behind-the-scenes jobs that keep us all afloat. We could not have had a successful summer season without our kitchen staff, led by Jason Pauley our Food Service Coordinator, and our maintenance team, Tom and Josh. We are so grateful for those that choose to serve our camp with their various talents and skills. If you would like to send the kitchen staff or the maintenance team a thank you card, mail can be received for them at our camp address.



### 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.

Register by going to [www.DuBoisCenter.org](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org), click register, and search under Day Camps. Rainbow Camp is a whole lot of fun in the sun - come join the party. Click [here](#) for a flyer.



**Unleashing Potential will hold a job fair on** Thursday, July 29 from 10 am - 1 pm at 1000 N Vandeventer, St. Louis, Missouri. Walk-in interviews. No appointments necessary. Come in professional dress. Positions open for early childhood teachers (full and part time), after school academic tutors (part time), and after school program assistants (part time). Benefits. The After School Program is currently being offered in Ferguson-Florissant District, Saint Louis Public Schools and University City Public Schools. Click [here](#) for a flyer and more details.



### Mark your calendar

Starting in September, the **Langenberg Leadership Forum** returns on the third Tuesday of the month from 7:30 am to 9 am in the Commons at Eden. Speakers for the Fall are:

**Cheryl D. S Walker, Esq.** attorney, community leader, and acting Interim President & CEO of the Deaconess Foundation on Tuesday September 21.

**Rev. Steve Lawler**, Founding Director of the Walker Leadership Institute, Tuesday October 19.

**Dr. Benjamin Ola. Akande**, Sr. Vice President, Director of Human Resources, Diversity and Inclusion at Stifel. Tuesday November 16.

**Desiree Coleman**, Sr. Vice President, Wells Fargo, Tuesday December 21.

More information and a link to register will be available in early August. If you have questions, contact Steve Lawler [slawler@eden.edu](mailto:slawler@eden.edu).



**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](mailto:mmurphy@hoyleton.org)

### Insurance Board Webinar - Employment Practices Liability (EPL) Considerations For Ministries

To help ministries navigate the challenges of being an employer, Insurance Board presents a webcast focused on considerations for general employment practices on Thursday, July 29 at 1 pm CDT. Webinar features Attorney James Abbott; Insurance Board's own



Cy McFarlin, Director of Claims Administration; and Monroe Moore, Senior Claims Analyst to discuss claims trends and employment practices liability. To register click [here](#).

## What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

### Vacation Bible School Schedules

**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 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Please send your child's name(s) and ages to Emily Uhe at either [emily.uhe90@gmail.com](mailto:emily.uhe90@gmail.com) or 618-972-5686.

### 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>

### Job Opportunity: Youth Ministry Director at O'Fallon UCC

O'Fallon UCC is seeking a qualified candidate, age 21 or older, for a part-time Youth Ministry Director position to lead Sunday morning youth Bible Study and fellowship/mission activities (2 Sundays per month). If interested, please contact the church office at 618-632-3496 or [oucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oucc@sbcglobal.net).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:FaithFormationDirector@stpaulucc.org).

### Job Opportunity: Assistant Church Organist/Musician

Grantfork UCC is looking for a musician to play the pipe organ and/or piano for their Sunday morning traditional worship service once or twice a month. The schedule will be coordinated with the church's music director, Connie Plocher. To express an interest, please contact Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul at 618-675-2595, or at [grantforkucc@agtelco.com](mailto:grantforkucc@agtelco.com).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org).

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at [lschuepbach@iscucc.org](mailto:lschuepbach@iscucc.org).

For DuBois Center information, contact Hayley Elliott at 618-787-2202 or [director@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:director@DuBoisCenter.org).

For DuBois Center registration for upcoming events and camp sessions, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or [jriechmann@iscucc.org](mailto:jriechmann@iscucc.org).

To speak with the Conference Minister, contact Rev. Shana Johnson 618-882-8247 or [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto: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](#)

