Jesus Moments

In the gospel of John 6: 24-35, one of the lectionary texts for this week, we encounter the familiar phrase “I am the bread of life.” In preaching and teaching to the crowds, Jesus used this phrase to describe who he is, why he has come to earth, and what those who follow him can expect to experience. Jesus declares, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.” While it is a simple concept, many of us fail to recognize its meaning in our everyday life.

In the ancient world, bread was known as sustaining nourishment. Bread filled the stomach, warding off hunger pangs if not starvation. A feeling many of us rarely know. Yet, while we may not easily associate with the emptiness of not having physical nourishment, I do believe we can easily associate with the emptiness from lack of spiritual and emotional nourishment. And this is what Jesus promises to fill.

The bread of life, the bread of heaven, is that which fills the emptiness and provides us the nourishment to go on. I would venture to say many of us have “bread of life” moments all the time. We just fail to recognize them for what they are—“Jesus moments”. Moments when Jesus is showing up in our lives, providing us encouragement, assurance, and sweet small reminders of God’s promises.

These moments of grace seem to come down from heaven, unexpectedly, to give us the sustenance to carry on for that day or for that moment.

What do these “bread of life” moments look like?

Perhaps it was when you were experiencing a particularly difficult time in your life. A time when it seemed like everything that could go wrong did go wrong. Then out of nowhere, a friend or a loved one reached out just to let you know they were thinking of you and wanted to share with you how much you matter to them. Ah, the bread of life.

Prayer list for Aug 1 - 7, 2021

Churches & Pastors

- Maeystown St. John UCC, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole
- Marine UCC, Rev. Phil (Sandee) Kershner
- Retired Pastor
  - Rev. Louis Fluck, Marion, IL

People with Life Concerns

- 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.
Perhaps it was when you were awaiting a test result or a prognosis, convinced this was the end. Then, unexpectedly, the test came back negative, or a course of treatment was laid out, and you realized hope was not lost; your health could be restored. Yes, the bread of life.

Perhaps you were experiencing brokenness in a relationship, and you wondered if the damage of words said or unsaid, actions done or actions undone were too severe to be mended. Then something shifted, perspectives changes, understanding and forgiveness were offered, and together a new path was forged. This, the bread of life.

The bread of life can be seen and experienced in such “Jesus moments”. For they are reminders that the Spirit of God is at work in our lives to remind us we are not alone; we are not without hope; we are not without the sustaining power of Christ to fill us, to carry us, and to guide us onward. Jesus IS the Bread of Life and as he declares, “whoever” follows him will experience the sustenance and the power of His life in theirs.

Blessings,
Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

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
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.

You are invited to attend the
Ordination of Philip Barbier
Sunday, August 1, 2021, at 2:00 pm CDT
Hope UCC, 6273 Eichelberger, St, St Louis, MO
Phillip will be the new pastor of St Jacob UCC and Summerfield St John UCC. All who wish to welcome him into ministry and the ISC are welcome and encouraged to attend. Pastors are asked to robe with red stole.

Hunger Action Update- It’s harvest time in many of our gardens.
Part of being hunger aware is making the best use of our food.
Share your extras with neighbors, especially busy families that don’t have time to garden or elderly friends who can no longer move through a garden easily.
The Hunger Action Team needs your help as we encourage one another – PLEASE DON’T WASTE FOOD! Please send us your recipes that use garden produce. Send recipes to shanks@htc.net. Include your name and your church along with the recipe.

Fresh Corn Gumbo
1 medium onion
2 medium green peppers
5 large or 6 medium ears fresh corn
2 Cup sliced okra (or 10 oz frozen)
1 small clove garlic
1 beef bouillon cube
1/2 Cup boiling water
1/4 Cup butter or oil
3/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper

Peel onion and dice. Wash green peppers, cut in half, remove seeds and white membrane then dice coarsely. With sharp knife, cut kernels off corn cob. With back of knife, scrape down creamy pulp. There should be about three cups of corn and pulp.

Peel and mince garlic.

Dissolve bouillon in boiling water.

In a 10” skillet over moderately low heat, melt butter. Add onion and green peppers. Cook, gently stirring often until partly tender, about 5 minutes. Add corn, okra, garlic, bouillon, salt and pepper. Cover tightly and simmer, stirring several times to prevent sticking, until corn and okra are tender, about 5 minutes. Serves 5 to 6.

Recipe from Sue Tinge – Christ UCC - Belleville

**2021 Stewardship Theme Materials**

- Campaign Resources Document that includes:
  - Directions and suggestions for an effective campaign
  - Social media and email directions
  - Letters and newsletter articles (ready for editing)
  - OCWM Basic Support Coloring Pages
- Theme artwork (formats: PDF | EPS | JPG | PNG)
- Facebook, Twitter and Instagram artwork (formats: PDF | EPS | JPG | PNG)
  - Digital copies of all pre-printed items:
    - Poster
    - 4 Sunday bulletin inserts w/ giving chart
    - 2 different Commitment cards
    - Envelope
    - Worship folder
    - Letterhead

Click [here](#) to order.

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**Welcome to Camp Phoenix!**

We are excited to welcome Camp Phoenix at DuBois Center this week! Camp Phoenix is the camp of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. They have been a community partner for many years and have extended an extremely kind and heartfelt welcome to me as the new acting director! We are grateful to be the site for their excellent work in outdoor ministry for youth within their diocese. Please join us in praying for their campers, leadership, and all involved in the fantastic ministry of Camp Phoenix!

Hayley Elliott, Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry.

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**Calling all Crafters - DuBois Fall Festival!**

Hunger Action will be hosting a booth to sell crafts at the upcoming DuBois Fall Festival. Proceeds of the sales will provide grants for food pantries throughout southern Illinois.

We are looking for
- NEW
- Handmade crafts
- Fall or Holiday themed
- No needle craft items, please

Please contact Carol Shanks at [shanks@htc.net](mailto:shanks@htc.net) or 618-920-2904 to tell her about your donation and how we can pick it up. Help support Hunger Action by donating 1, 2 or more of your craft items. We REALLY NEED YOUR HELP so that together we can feed our hungry neighbors.
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, 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.

Bethany Johnson-Javois, President & CEO of Deaconess Foundation
The Deaconess Foundation Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that lifelong St. Louis health and racial justice advocate Bethany Johnson-Javois, MSW, has been unanimously selected to serve as the next president and CEO of Deaconess Foundation. Her appointment follows a rigorous and thoughtful search led by the Deaconess Executive Search Committee, appointed by the Deaconess Board of Trustees. Johnson-Javois is currently Chief Executive Officer of St. Louis Integrated Health Network (IHN) and will join Deaconess in her new role starting October 18, 2021. Cheryl D.S. Walker, Esq. will continue to serve as interim President and CEO of the Foundation, a role she assumed in October 2020. Read more.

Conference 2021 Reprise
The United Church of Christ Musicians’ Association Conference 2021 (July 8-10, 2021) is now in the books, but you can still enjoy all of the workshops, worship services, Q&As, the biennial meeting, shopping at the vendor booths, touring the historic sites of Glastonbury, CT and going on a bird walk. Everything will be available on the event website through Tuesday, August 10, 2021. That's plenty of time to absorb all of the events at your own pace in the comfort of your home or office.

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.

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

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

Region 2
New Hanover Zoar UCC will hold its Annual BBQ on Sat, Aug 7 from 4 pm - 7 pm at the church (9103 D Rd, Columbia, IL 62236). Menu includes pork steak and brat plates or sandwiches. Sides include cole slaw, potato salad or baked beans. Entertainment by George Portz and his Friends of Bluegrass. Country store. Silent auction of baskets. Pie Auction at 5:30 pm. Indoor and outdoor activities.

Vacation Bible School Schedules
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.

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
**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.
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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