ISC Annual Meeting 2021 Held virtually
A Time to Replenish ~ Jeremiah 31:25
Schedule for AM:
Sunday, Oct. 10 Liturgy provided for local churches to bless the work of Annual Meeting and provide a charge to the delegates.
Wednesday, Oct. 13 Afternoon workshop(s) for clergy
Thursday, Oct. 14 Evening workshop(s) geared for lay but open to delegates, non-delegates, and clergy
Saturday, Oct. 16 Morning Business Meeting including anniversary celebrations of clergy and churches and a closing worship
Celebration of Ministries
The Conference Gatherings Team has decided that, considering the uncertainty of the Delta variant of COVID, we wanted to make the safest and healthiest choice for all of our ISC folk. So, with sadness, we have canceled the Friday night, in-person gathering and will incorporate the anniversary celebrations planned for Friday night into our Saturday morning meeting time.
Delegate registration details will soon be sent to churches, ISC clergy, and Conference Council. Fee will be $25/person.

Annual Meeting Workshops for All
Workshops planned for October 13 and 14: All free of charge, but a free-will offering to Friends of the Conference is suggested to cover the honorariums for speakers and technology fees.

October 13, Wednesday afternoon – workshops for clergy at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm.
- Andy Lang of ONA Coalition: to help pastors talk about inclusivity, opening conversations about marriage, clobber passages, how to preach on it, what is the pastor’s role in the ONA process
- Rev. Donna Pupillo of Deaconess Nurse Ministry: self-care & the Credo program

October 14, Thursday evening – workshops geared for lay but open to delegates, non-delegates, and clergy at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm.
- Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Director of Mental Health and Disabilities UCC: How a congregation can provide resources and/or support people in congregations with mental health concerns, steps to become a WISE congregation
- Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi of Iliff School of Theology: Church Missions Post-COVID

Prayer list for Aug 15 - 21, 2021
Churches & Pastors
- Mascoutah St. John UCC, Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz
- Chaplain for SIH Cancer Institute & Trauma Center, Rev. Barbara Patten

Retired Pastor
- Rev. Dr. Richard and Johann Ellerbrake, Lebanon, 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 Migrant Farm 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.
Recent grants from UCC Global H.O.P.E.

UCC Global H.O.P.E.’s grantees in June included:

**Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference**

UCC, Billings, MT, $3,000 – Solidarity Grant to help evacuees from the “Robertson Draw” fire with immediate relief, and to help build connections that can lead to sustainable assistance from the wider community for employment and to “rehome.” Red Lodge, MT Community Church UCC has been serving as an evacuation center, working with the city disaster team, supporting fire fighters, and providing financial support to evacuees.

**Southwest Conference UCC**, Phoenix, AZ – $15,000 – Matching funds to help Cruzando Fronteras/Casa Misericordia, Yuma UCC and the Welcome Center support migrants’ housing, food, clothing, and other basic needs in 2021.

**YWCA, Gaza** – $4,000 for Summer Camp for Gaza children, including nutritious meals, psychological support, hygiene kits. The goal is to bring some normality and support to the children of Gaza in the wake of Israel’s May 10-21, 2021, attack on Gaza – the worst such attack since 2014.

**Al Ahil Hospital, Palestine** – $7,500 – Fuel for generators, emergency medicines and other supplies as violence erupts throughout the Holy Land. By request from the Middle East Area Office.

**ACT Alliance** – $10,500 – To assist ACT Palestine Forum and members DSPR and DCA/NCA provide emergency shelter, WASH, health and nutrition, protection, psychosocial support, recovery, and cash for 10,000 people affected by recent conflict in Gaza, with special attention to women, children, elderly people, and persons living with disabilities.

Click [here](#) for details of grants approved January through June 2021.

### Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminars Starting Soon

Can fundraising be ministry? Can stewardship be spiritual? The Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminars this fall offer opportunities for pastors and lay leaders to explore faithful, practical, and tested ways to promote generosity in our congregations. We will draw on current research, seek guidance from the wisdom of scripture, and discuss the best practices in church-based fundraising. Pastors and leaders participating in this program will be equipped to lead an effective stewardship campaign and, more broadly, help their congregations reclaim generosity as a spiritual practice. The seminar meetings will be held on Tuesdays – Sept. 21, Oct. 5 & 19, and Nov. 2, 16, & 30. Seminars run from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm CST. There will be readings, videos, and reflections to complete in-between seminar meetings. The program costs $300 for a team of two leaders (additional participants $150 each). Learn more and register [here](#) by Sept. 14.

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.
In preparation for a move, I’ve been going through lots of boxes that haven’t been looked at for a while. During the process, I found printed copies of my poetry “Rhymes & Reason for Life”. As I flipped through the pages, this poem caught my eye. Sharing it with you now.

– Lynnette

**Depression**

Depressions is like living in a January rainstorm. Raining endlessly, day and night without relief. There is no sun or stars, only gray clouds— and rain.

And this rain, which is INSIDE, chills my Soul. I shake and shiver, but nothing is there to give me warmth.

No one outside can see the rain, inside of me. And the outside world is blurred when I look at it through rain-streaked windows.

Nothing is as it appears. I try to wipe my tears fast enough to have a clear view, but I only see streaks of water.

Each day I work hard to steer safely, even though my view is unclear. And I’ve made it through One more day.

I tell myself, “Have patience. The storm will wane. The clouds will lift. The sun will enter my windows once more. I just need to make it through one more day.”

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**Your Church = Vaccination Site**

The Illinois Department of Public Health asks churches to consider being a COVID vaccination site. Click [here](#) to find answers for questions that may arise when beginning a conversation with your congregation.

If you are interested, here is the [link](#) to start the application. A "Site Coordinator" from the Illinois Department of Public Health will reach out to you within a few days after submission. For more information, you may reach out directly to Pastor Garry S. Mitchell at [garry.mitchell@illinois.gov](mailto:garry.mitchell@illinois.gov) or 708-397-8283.

To date, these churches are either in the process of applying to be a vaccination site or have dates set up for the near future:

**Grantfork United Church of Christ in Grantfork**

**Highland Evangelical UCC**

**Lebanon St. Paul UCC** scheduled for Aug 17 - [click](#) for flyer

**Mascoutah St. John UCC and Collinsville St. John UCC** have both participated as vaccination sites and are willing to share their experiences.

Congrats to all of you for reaching out to the masses.
Free to You!
We are doing some clean up in the ISC office. We’re giving you first dibs on some items and then we will donate or recycle whatever is left. If you’re interested in any of these items, send us an email and we’ll make sure we’re in the office for you to pick them up. cpursell@iscucc.org. No cost; first come, first served. Photos below.

- 2-shelf bookshelf
- CD holder
- Metal magazine holder – 13” x 26”

(All of the book studies shown above and below were donated by Friedens UCC Troy)
- Mom Squad – Mini-Event Kit for Moms
- Bible Study: Leviticus and Numbers – 9 books
- God Sightings – One leader guide and one companion guide

- The Seven Pillars of Health study kit by Don Colbert
- VBS kit – Cokesbury’s Rolling River Rampage
- Beautiful Feet Women’s Retreat CD and worksheets
- Philip Yancey’s Prayer Group Study – 14 books and a DVD

Items not shown in photos
- Printer – HP Color Laser Jet 1600 (currently has working cartridges) – will need HP124a cartridges
- Printer – HP desk jet color printer D4360 (no cartridges included).
- Table – 30” L x 20” W x 22” H
- Cotton Patch Gospel (classic) – reel to reel movie
- Fieldon UCC Cookbooks – about 12 of them
- Dry erase board – 2’ x 3’

DuBois Center News
Rainbow Camp and thoughts on marking a change in season
We were lucky to welcome the Sixth Rainbow Camp to DuBois Center on Saturday, August 7. From activities like horseback riding, archery, crafting and canoeing to conversations at a shared table, more than 40 of us enjoyed a day of fellowship, nature, the taste of the first honey from the
DuBois Center bees, and camp fun. We look forward to welcoming even more people to Rainbow Camp in 2022 as we continue to draw the circle of God’s love ever wider.

Our Rainbow Camp coincided with our coordinator wrap up of the season, where our summer leadership team comes to debrief and do the manual tasks associated with transitioning from summer to fall. These moments of transition are always bittersweet when you are a year-round camp director. On the one hand, you get to really sleep for the first time in almost three months. On the other, you are saying goodbye (for now) to people who have profoundly impacted you despite only knowing them for a short time. I’d like to share a brief excerpt from our closing circle at Rainbow Camp. While words fail to express my gratitude for your hospitality, I hope you hear it in the spaces between the words.

“One of my favorite things about outdoor ministry is that, over time as you move through a space, it begins to move through you. And so, Rainbow Camp is also the close of our summer season. It’s been 4 months and two days (but who is counting) since I started as Acting Director for Outdoor Ministry. I find it difficult to really put into words the way this space has moved through me this summer. In a large part, I find it difficult because in addition to the beautiful place, it is also these beautiful people who have had this profound impact on me. When you ask an individual to do all the things that are required to reopen a camp, the result is chaos and failure. But when you ask a team to do it? You experience a summer like the one we have had. Sure, things were often haywire; we were understaffed; things could’ve easily fallen apart at any moment; but instead, now we are here, in this beautiful moment, celebrating not only our camp community, but my community as well. I wasn’t sure as an out, loud, queer person what this job might be like, but with a staff like the one we have, who were endlessly supportive and adaptable, even the hardest moments felt joyful, peaceful, important. It is this sort of connectivity and love reflected in my staff that reminds me of the best experiences I have had as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. That moment when everything has fallen apart, but your chosen family picks up the pieces, that’s what camp, and being a queer person, is for me. So, I want to say thank you, whether you’ve shared this space with me for months, or you’ve just been here in this space today. I hope it moved you. I hope it changed you. And I hope you leave feeling a little better than you did when you got here.”

Thank you to our coordinator team – (first row left to right in photo) Olivia Cruthis, Bailey Avise-Rouse, Rylee Hodges-Stone, and Catie Goetter, and (second row left) Ryan Goetter for coming out to power wash, scrub, and move equipment. More importantly, we are grateful to them for making sure we could serve more than 350 campers this summer at DuBois Center! Without their hard work and dedication, this summer could not have been successful. Thank you for your many efforts!

- Hayley Elliott (in photo second row right), Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry
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 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.

Memory Cafe
What is Memory Cafe? An hour of conversation and fun, virtually, for those experiencing memory loss and their loved ones!
The Memory Cafe concept was created by a Norwegian psychiatrist a few years back. It came about due to the doctor noticing how isolation was having a negative impact on the lives of his dementia clients and their caregivers. He decided to create a place where the family caregiver and their loved one with memory loss could gather with others like themselves to socialize. Groups began to meet in cafes. Hence the name Memory Cafe. The concept became very popular and spread around the world. St. John’s is delighted to bring it to the Metro East.

This month you can join them through the decades. August 11 for the 50’s. August 18 for the 60’s and August 25 for the 70’s. Each day’s session is from 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm. There is no charge to attend but contact gshaw@stjohnscc.org or call 618-298-8077 to register. Click here for a flyer.

The Savvy Caregivers Workshop - 6 weekly 2-hour sessions
The workshop, taught by professional instructors using curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota, is for active caregivers of a family member or friend living at home with dementia. Caregivers learn to develop new strategies for caring for the person living with the disease as well as caring for themselves. These strategies and skills have been shown to decrease the stress of caregiving and increase well-being for both.
The group will meet in person on Thursdays: August 19, 26 and Sept 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 10 am - 12 pm. No charge to attend, but you must register at 618-344-5008. Class size is limited.

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

POSTPONED - Hoyleton Children’s Home Celebrating 125 Years!!
Hoyleton Children’s Home has postponed its 125th Birthday Celebration on Sunday, September 26. We celebrate their accomplishment and will keep you posted when you can celebrate in person with them.

Removing Hazards on Church Property and Protecting your Congregation from Slips, Trips & Falls
The Insurance Board presents this webinar on Thurs, Aug 12 at 1 pm CDT. Church should be a safe place for people to worship and gather, however based on the number of claims related to slips and falls, many congregants experience injuries that are life changing.
Churches are full of potential hazards for congregants: steps and stair wells, slippery parking lots, walkways, and surfaces, sidewalks in disrepair, and transitions (carpet to vinyl, etc.). Attorney James Abbott offers considerations for your ministry to provide a safer environment for everyone. Insurance Board’s very own Cy McFarlin, Director of Claims Administration, and Monroe Moore, Senior Claims Analyst, will be available to discuss claims trends impacting ministries related to slips, trips, and falls. Click here to register.

IHIPC Integrated Planning Council - Call for Applications
The Illinois HIV Integrated Planning Council is now accepting applications for 2022 membership now through September 15. There are several attachments included here:

- **IHIPC Application Cover Letter**: This letter provides detailed information about the application process and responsibilities of IHIPC members.
- **IHIPC Application**: If applying, please complete this fillable Word document and send it back to me via the communication options listed at the top of application. By clicking the link, the Word document will download to your computer.
- **Updated Membership Gap Analysis**: Several existing members have exited the group since our June gap analysis. This updated version has slightly changed our membership priorities.

All interested individuals are encouraged to apply! We currently have 6 voting and 6 at-large membership vacancies for 2022. For more information, contact Marleigh.Andrews-Conrad@illinois.gov or 217-524-9005.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

**Region 5**
Highland Evangelical UCC will hold a program **GriefShare** every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm from August 18 - November 10. The program is designed to support, help, and encourage those who are experiencing grief after the death of a loved one. After this series is complete, there will be a session **Surviving the Holidays GriefShare** program on November 17 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. All sessions will be at the church at 2520 Poplar Street, Highland. Contact 618-654-7459 or office@evucc.org to register. Click here for a flyer to share with your congregation.

**Job Opportunity: Facilities Coordinator and Tech Coordinator Positions**
Waterloo St. Paul UCC is taking resumes for its Facilities Coordinator and Tech Coordinator positions. Please send inquiries about the Facilities Coordinator, Tech Coordinator or both to stpauluccwaterloo@gmail.com.

**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.

**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**
St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois, seeks a Director of Faith Formation (18 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
Send a resume and 3 references to FaithFormationDirector@stpaulucc.org.

**Job Opportunity: Minister of Visitation**
St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois, seeks a Minister of Visitation (10 hours per week). Job responsibilities include:
- Visit congregants who are hospitalized, in long-term care facilities, and homebound
- Assist with and lead funerals as needed
- Assist in worship elements
Send a resume and 3 references to visitationsearch@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.

**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