A Snail's Tale
Occasionally, I will have a song from my childhood that gets stuck in my brain. Out of nowhere the tune and the words will seem to play on a loop. After a while, I realize the appearance of the song is more than just a coincidence but rather is connected to something I have been experiencing or thinking about perhaps without even realizing it.

For the last couple of days, it has been a song I learned for a musical production my church put on when I was about ten years old. The musical was "The Music Machine: A Fantasy Story from Agapeland." The story is about two young children who meet a conductor who teaches them "fruits of the spirit" life lessons through songs the "music machine" plays.

While I honestly don't remember much of the storyline of the musical, I remember one song. It is the song a snail named Herbert sings about patience. The chorus of the song came to me so clearly that you would think that I had heard it sung recently. That is not the case. (I won’t tell you how long ago it was that I was in the musical, but you can take a guess.) Yet, its sudden appearance has given me pause that perhaps it is a message worth paying attention to. The words are simple and are best, I imagine, being sung very slowly. Remember this was the snail’s signature song.

"Have patience. (5-second pause)
Have patience. (5-second pause)
Don’t be in such a hurry. (10-second pause)
When you get impatient (5-second pause)

You only start to worry. (5-second pause)
Remember (10-second pause)
Remember (10-second pause)
That God is patient too (5-second pause)"

Prayer list for Aug 22 - 28, 2021
Churches & Pastors
-Moro St. John’s UCC of Midway, Rev. Lori (Wayne) Schafer
-Murphysboro St. Peter’s UCC Retired Pastor
- Rev. Chris and Lena Edwards, Converse, TX

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 St Louis Area Food Bank and Operation Food Search 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.
-Keep the people of Afghanistan in your prayers for peaceful living.
-Pray for the people of Haiti as they recover from the earthquake and mourn friends and family who were were lost.
And think of all the times when others (5-second pause) Have to wait for you!”

Yes, perhaps a silly, simple song, but it got me thinking. (And maybe it will get you thinking too.) I thought about the pace of our world. The pace of life, including my own. We always seem to be in a rush. More recently it is…A rush to get back to our busyness. A rush to dismiss what we are going through individually and collectively. A rush to distract ourselves from the depth of our feelings and experiences. A rush to move away from our fears and uncertainties. A rush to push past the present moment to what we have convinced ourselves will be moments that are better or easier. A rush to get ahead of whatever or whoever seems to be in our way.

Yet, I believe our rushing shortcuts the important life experiences God intends us to have. Our impatience shortcuts our opportunities to slow down to see and experience the beauty all around us. Our impatience shortcuts our opportunities to truly listen and learn from one another. Our impatience shortcuts our ability to heal and be made whole. Our impatience shortcuts our opportunities to offer grace and mercy to others and ourselves. And our impatience shortcuts our opportunities to be fully in the presence of the One who is not bound by time.

In so many ways, we have lost our ability to be patient. Yet God is still patient with us, waiting for us to understand the importance, the beauty, and the power of being still to experience the marvels of allowing the Spirit of God to hold us, protect us, and carry us forward. So dear friends, in the days ahead, may we remember to practice patience.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Churches in Transition

On Sunday, August 15, Rev. Diane Grohmann celebrated her retirement as Pastor and Teacher of the St. Paul United Church of Christ in Edwardsville. She served there for over twenty years. We wish her all the best in her next season of her life and ministry.

Congratulations to Rev. Diane Grohmann

On Sunday, August 15, Illinois South Conference also celebrated the installation of Rev. Steven J Boorsma as pastor and teacher of St. John UCC, Valmeyer. The service was a witness to: the importance of an intentional interim process, the vital work of interims, the diligence of interim transitional teams, and search committees, the countless ways the Spirit DOES work in the search
and call process when all are leaning in to listen, the beauty of covenantal relationships of the Church in the UCC at every level (local, Conference, and National), and the joy of seeing the promises and possibilities of God unfold. Thank you to Pastor Steve and St. John UCC for inviting us to join you! The photo above left shows the outdoor sign in honor of Rev. Boorsma. The photo above center shows Rev. Boorsma with family, congregants, and participating pastors. The photo to the right is Rev. Steven Boorsma, Rev. Shana Johnson (ISC Conference Minister), and Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer (General Minister and President of the UCC).

St. John United Church of Christ
and Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ
Invite You to Attend the
Installation of
Rev. Jennifer Sowell Glover
as Pastor and Teacher of
St. John United Church of Christ
307 W Clay Street
Collinsville, Illinois
on Sunday, September 19, 2021
at 3 pm
Pastors are invited to participate. Please robe with red stoles and gather at the church by 2:30 pm.

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.

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 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-Sept 11 & Oct 2, 10 am - 3 pm each day
Highland Evangelical UCC
Carlinville St. Paul UCC
Mascoutah St. John UCC, Lebanon St. Paul UCC, Troy Friedens UCC, and Collinsville St. John UCC have all 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.

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

(All of the book studies below and above 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 Beautiful Feet
- Women’s Retreat CD and worksheets

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).
- Cotton Patch Gospel (classic) – reel to reel movie
- Fieldon UCC Cookbooks – about 12 of them
- Dry erase board – 2’ x 3’

Save the Dates for our Fall Programming - Fall Festival
Fall Festival will be on Sunday, October 3, 2021. Applications for vendors are available online at our website. Volunteers make this day happen, so if you are interested in volunteering, please email us at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or call Hayley at 815-627-0595.
Mother-Daughter Retreat
Our annual Mother-Daughter Retreat is planned for October 15 – 17, 2021. Come and enjoy quality time with your family. Activities include archery, canoeing, crafts, a hayride, campfire, hiking, pontoon boat rides, and horseback riding. Registration information is coming soon, so start making plans to attend now!

Horse Retreat
This year, we are excited to offer a horse retreat in our fall programming calendar. Make plans for your student age 12+ to attend Wrangle and Ride weekend October 22 – 24, 2021! More details will be announced in the next edition of the Weekly Connection – stay tuned.

Plan your own retreat!
Would your church benefit from a night away for a family style retreat? Are you looking for a sweet spot to have a Sunday afternoon church picnic? Does your youth group want to get more involved with DuBois Center? Know of an organization looking for a retreat filled with teambuilding, conversations around the fire, and professional development? Want to come out for a day and ride horses? Plan your own retreat at DuBois Center this fall! Email us at dcinfo@duboiscenter.org or call Hayley at 815-627-0595. Registration will open soon for retreats.

Elmhurst Celebrates 150 Years
In honor of the 150th Anniversary of Elmhurst University, all UCC churches are invited to covenant with Elmhurst. This invitation carries many possibilities and hopes for our common future as we give thanks for our past, joy in the present, and hope for the future. Each congregation may define what that covenant means for the coming years. As Chaplain, H. Scott Matheney, is inviting each community of faith to:
1. Lift up higher education, exploring its role in the greater US society, and how each local setting reflects and engages higher education.
2. Ask local communities of faith to help identify alums, and those connected with Elmhurst University, such as faculty, staff, administrators, present students, trustees, friends.
3. Allow Elmhurst to place the name of your community of faith on a permanent plaque in the University Chapel.
4. Offer prayer for all in higher education, students, faculty, staff, trustees, and Elmhurst University.
The formal year of celebration is Graduation - May 2021 to May 2022 Please contact the Chaplain at hscottm@elmhurst.edu or 630 617-3025 to join, request information, or for further conversation.

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 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.

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.

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.

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

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.
- 1:00 pm - Beyond Chocolates and Bath Salts: Self Care for Pastors
  Presented by Donna Pupillo, RN and Executive Director of Deaconess Nurse Ministry
- 2:30 pm - The Rainbow Connection: The Pastor’s Role in Helping Congregations Become Inclusive
  Presented by Andy Lang, Executive Director of ONA Coalition

October 14, Thursday evening – workshops geared for lay but open to delegates, non-delegates, and clergy at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm.
- 6:00 pm - Lifting the Shame: How Churches Can Break the Silence about Mental Health
  Presented by Dr. Sarah Lund, Director of Mental Health and Disabilities UCC
- 7:00 pm - Reimagining Our Collective Missional Call
  Presented by Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Director of the Office of Professional Formation and Term Assistant Professor of Leadership and Formation at Iliff School of Theology

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: Media and Technology Director
St. Paul UCC, Belleville is hiring a Media and Technology Director. This position is responsible for the church audio/visual program, video production of worship, and website and social media. This includes:

- Coordinating the audio/visual/lighting elements of our worship service broadcasts
- Developing media and technology program at St. Paul UCC
- Overseeing hardware & software needs

Go to our website stpaulucc.org for a full job description. For those interested, please send a full resume to: MediaTechDirectorSearch@stpaulucc.org.

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