Armor of God
The epistle for last Sunday was Ephesians 6:10-20 or what is often called the “putting on the armor of God” text. For many worshippers and preachers alike, the message seems problematic. Modern readers of the text are often either surprised by the armor imagery Paul uses or they delight in what they interpret as Paul endorsing militaristic posturing. But I believe both responses miss the mark.
Paul uses an image the people know quite well, the suit of armor of a Roman soldier. These are the soldiers that line their streets. These are the soldiers which have been entrusted with the responsibility that all citizens of Roman-occupied lands are loyal to government leaders and powers alone.
The uniform was unmistakable and symbolized worldly power and a deadly threat to their outward living of the Christian faith. Believers and followers of Christ were seen as disloyal to the powers on high and, as such, could be subject to torture, beatings, and even death.
By using the armor image, Paul is challenging newly converted Christians to understand they are not powerless in the face of these earthly powers. Instead, they have access to a higher power that surpasses all, which is the power of the Risen Christ. He calls upon them to envision putting on an armor that can protect them and enable them to persevere regardless of whatever struggles or battles they face. Paul is not speaking of revenge or simply reverting to earthly forms of battle by putting on the steel of a breastplate, shield, and helmet, the leather of a belt and shoes, or the wood of arrows or sword. Rather, he is calling people of faith to engage in something higher, deeper, and more difficult. The spiritual battle of living out the righteousness and truth of God and living by the word of the Lord calls us each to disarming actions such as showing

Prayer list for
Aug 29 - Sept 4, 2021
Churches & Pastors
-Nashville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Beverly Kahle
-New Athens St. John UCC, Rev. Dr. Robert (Cathy) Koch
Retired Pastor
- Revs. Janis Dashner and Bob Goddard, O'Fallon, IL

People with Life Concerns
-Please pray for the family of Rev. Dr. Paul D Schippel (Debby) who passed away on Thursday, August 19, 2021. Rev. Schippel served as director of Hoyleton Children's Home (now Hoyleton Youth & Family Services), was a long-time member of Illinois South Conference, supply pastor for many ISC churches, went on ISC-sponsored mission trips, and was a member of Friedens UCC in Irvington. Rev. Schippel was a graduate of Elmhurst College and Eden Theological Seminary, and he was ordained on June 28, 1959. He recently celebrated his 90th birthday and his 60th ordination anniversary.
A memorial gathering of family and friends will take place on Friday, August 27 from 12-2:00 p.m. at Friedens UCC. A celebration of life service will follow at 2:00 p.m. All services will take place at Friedens UCC, 307 South Third Street, Irvington, IL 62848. The family would like to extend a special invitation for clergy to participate in a funeral processional.
Since Paul always wore his favorite stole for funerals of colleagues, the
forth ceaseless love, grace, and peace. Four times in Ephesians 6, Paul uses the word “stand”, as in stand firm in the righteousness and truth of God. This kind of standing firm takes a deeper strength and test of character than those who might respond with anger, intolerance, hatred, and violence. It is easier to get angry, blow up, judge others, even hurt others and walk away than to stand firm in our commitment as Christians to love God and love our neighbors, especially those who feel like our enemies. It is a bold act of faith to stand firm in our conviction to love ALL people as God loves. When the government of South Africa canceled a political rally against apartheid, Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu moved the rally into St. George’s Cathedral and turned it into a worship service. Soldiers and riot police followed and lined the walls of the cathedral with weapons and bayonets drawn. Tutu spoke about the evils of apartheid and how rulers who supported it were doomed to fail. Tutu is a small man physically but not spiritually. He pointed a frail finger at the soldiers and police and said, “You may be powerful, but you are not God. God cannot be mocked. You have already lost.” It was a moment of unbelievable tension. Then Tutu came out from behind his pulpit and flashed his radiant smile and said, “Therefore, since you have already lost, we are inviting you to join the winning side.” The crowd roared. The police and soldiers put their weapons away and left the cathedral. This was an example of standing firm. At that moment Bishop Tutu was wearing the armor of God which Paul describes. Tutu was wearing the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, and shoes ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. But we don’t have to be a Bishop Tutu to don the armor of God. It will look different for each of us. It will even change over time as we grow spiritually. It is not an armor to fight back with the weapons of this world, but rather it is the armor to protect our minds, bodies, and spirits so that we might face the difficult, sometimes even dark realities of this world, with the righteousness, truth, and salvation of Christ Jesus to guide us. When we face life’s struggles, may we, as Paul says, stand firm in the mighty power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

SEPTEMBER is Hunger Action Month. Here are some suggestions for ways your congregation can recognize Hunger Action Month.

1. Preach a hunger themed sermon

family suggests clergy attending to wear a robe and their favorite stole. Plan to arrive at the church at 1:30 pm to connect and line up. Masks will be required. Memorials may be made in Rev. Schippel's memory to Hoyleton Youth & Family Services, 350 North Main Street, Hoyleton IL 62803 or to Friedens United Church of Christ, 307 South Third Street Irvington, Illinois 62848

Condolences may be expressed to the family online when visiting the obituary or by mail to Mrs. Debby Schippel, 1002 E Second St, Centralia, IL 62801.

Rev Schippel’s obituary and services can be found [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 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 lost.

Here are some suggestions for ways your congregation can recognize Hunger Action Month.

1. Preach a hunger themed sermon
2. Lead a meeting devotion on hunger
3. Write a church newsletter article about hunger
4. Have a THANK YOU card available for members to sign and send to your local food pantry director
5. Lift up hunger action advocates in prayer each week in September - food pantry director, Bread for the World organization, Farm Bureau, Illinois South Hunger Action team, senior nutrition site director…. Find people/groups to lift up from your community.
6. Collect food for your local pantry
7. Visual reminder – an empty brown paper shopping bag with the sign “When were you hungry and I fed you?”

The Hunger Action team would love to hear your stories. Send stories and/or photos to Carol Shanks – shanks@htc.net.

Eden Theological Seminary 2021 Opening Convocation
The community gathers for this celebration to mark the beginning of the new academic year on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at 5:30 pm CDT.
● Worship! ● Welcome new students ● Celebrate Faculty ● Greet returning students, staff, faculty ● Join with family, alumni, friends, and congregations around the country
Eden is overjoyed to welcome the Rev. Michelle Higgins as the preacher for this Opening Convocation. Rev. Higgins is senior pastor of St. John’s Church (The Beloved Community) UCC in St. Louis. She has deep roots in the Pentecostal worship tradition and is the first woman to be settled as lead pastor and teacher in the congregation’s 160-year history. Michelle was a speaker as part of Eden’s 2021 Spring Convocation last academic year. In July 2021, Rev. Higgins was one of the preachers for the United Church of Christ’s national General Synod.

Students, faculty, and staff can be in person (with COVID protocols) or online. All are invited to participate via Zoom or Facebook Live. An ice cream social will follow the service. Click here to register. Click here for a flier.

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 or rainbow stoles and gather at the church by 2:30 pm.

Illinois South Conference in covenant with
Friedens United Church of Christ
Invite you to the Exchange of Covenantal Vows (Installation) of
Reverend Dr. Tim Harrison
On Sunday, September 12, 2021, at 4:00 pm
Friedens United Church of Christ, 207 East Center Street, Troy, IL 62294
RSVP to 618-667-6535
Clergy are invited to attend and are asked to wear a red stole or those representing other faith traditions to wear appropriate attire and arrive by 3:30 pm. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall after the service. A freewill offering will be collected in offering plates at entrances of sanctuary for our mission of the month, Hitz Home.

Garden Patrol to the Rescue!
What to do with all those tomatoes and cucumbers? Don’t let them go to waste!
Here is a quick and easy recipe from Kathi Emery of St. Paul UCC-Waterloo
Peel and slice the cucumbers. Slice the tomatoes.
Combine them in a bowl; pour Italian dressing over vegetables.
Stir, refrigerate for at least an hour. Serve cold.
(Other recipes include adding thinly sliced onions and/or sliced zucchini to the above recipe)

Nancy Berry, Executive Director of St. John’s Community Care, was nominated and selected to be honored by the YWCA as one of their Women of Distinction at their Gala in East Alton, IL. Congratulatory notes and well-wishes can be mailed to 222 Geothe Avenue, Collinsville, IL 62234 or emailed to nberry@stjohnsc.org. Her journey with St. John’s Community Care began as a volunteer in 1984, becoming paid Director in 1988. While many of the Women of Distinction honorees focus their efforts on young women and girls, Nancy Berry has made caring for older people her life’s work. Working with the Collinsville Area Ministerial Association in 1998, she helped form Collinsville Faith in Action (CFIA), an interfaith, volunteer caregiver program, which provides free transportation to senior citizens and others with disabilities who live in the Collinsville School District. They also offer free assistance to enroll in Medicare and other benefits. While overseeing the formation of the CFIA, Nancy was, and continues tirelessly, to serve as Executive Director at St. John’s Community Care in Collinsville, where she and her staff work to improve the lives of individuals and families challenged by aging and disability. As Executive Director of St. John’s Community Care, she led the organization to develop the only Adult Day Centers in Madison County. These centers care for individuals with dementia every weekday. St. John’s also sponsors support groups and training for family caregivers. Nancy has advocated at the state level for adult day services and works to educate the community on dementia issues.

Nancy was also active in the League of Women Voters of Collinsville for more than 30 years. “During that time, the League played a key role in establishing the Collinsville Area Recreation District,” Berry recalled. “The League was also instrumental in the campaign to vote in the council-manager form of city government and supported establishment of the Madison County Health Department.”
She is actively involved in St. John United Church of Christ in Collinsville, was a past Cub Scout den leader, and president of her sons’ grade school Parent Teacher Association.
“Establishing and developing St. John’s Community Care and Collinsville Faith in Action are my biggest professional accomplishments,” Berry said. “I am deeply grateful to know that many local seniors and families have benefited through the services provided through these two organizations.”
Nancy considers raising two wonderful sons, who now have their own families and careers which focus on helping others, as her biggest personal accomplishment.
Nancy earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Millikin University, and a master’s in health care administration from Saint Louis University. She has been honored with the Millikin University Alumni Award; Alzheimer’s Association - St. Louis Chapter Volunteer of the Year Award; the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Kimmel Leadership Award; Focus St. Louis’ What’s Right with the Region Award; Outstanding Social Service Agency Award for Collinsville Faith in Action.
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** - September 25 (first shot) and October 16 (second shot & booster shots)
- **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.

Mission Offering for Annual Meeting 2021
The past year and a half have been a struggle in several ways for many of us. Covid and the Delta Variant, social isolation, and fear and anxiety over how to deal with the pandemic have hit us all, although perhaps in different ways. No matter what statistics you look at, the prevalence of mental health issues has increased, suicidal ideation has increased, there is still an unmet need for mental health treatment, people need mental health services, and there aren't enough mental health providers. These issues know no boundaries when it comes to lay or clergy.
This year's Annual Meeting offering will be going to the ISC Clergy Assistance Fund where funds will be used to aid and assist clergy. In 2021, this fund has been used heavily as clergy have needed counseling and spiritual direction services for themselves and their families. The use of these funds is granted and approved by the Conference Minister. The assistance provided to the clergy of ISC not only assists the clergy, but also provides a healthier church as our leaders get the care and support they need to care for their members.

- **Prior to Annual Meeting, ask your Church Council** to seek contributions from your congregation in support of the ISC Clergy Assistance Fund.
- **Write a check** payable to Illinois South Conference.
- **In the memo line** acknowledge Annual Meeting Offering or ISC Clergy Assistance Fund
- **Send the check** to Illinois South Conference, 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249.
- **Click here** for a flyer.

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

**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’

**Come work for us! Now hiring Nature’s Classroom Instructors.**

Love the outdoors? Want to teach students in an experiential, meaningful way that they will remember for years to come? We are currently searching for instructors for our fall and spring Nature’s Classroom sessions! Instructors will work 3-5 days a week, teaching school groups team building, experiential science, and more! A full job description is available on our website. Email Hayley (director@duboiscenter.org) or call 815-627-0595.

**Flooring Update**

Thanks to the Belleville St. Paul UCC Mission Team, ISC Property Committee (Priscilla Self, Roger Harris, and David Hoffmann), Nancy Wagner, and McCullough Flooring from Belleville, the floors of the DuBois Center office have been re-floored with beautiful flooring that
continues throughout all rooms of the office. Thanks to those of you who donated so generously (with time and money) to make it happen.

Prepping for Fall Festival
David Hoffmann was also busy re-building the stage at DuBois Center. The Fall Festival will be revitalized this year on Sunday, October 3. So, to prepare for the entertainment scheduled there, David got busy to give the stage a facelift. What a difference it makes to the landscape at DuBois Center.

Fall Festival Volunteers needed:
Every year our Fall Festival brings people from all over southern Illinois to our camp, and we are expecting this year to be no different. To make this large event happen, many volunteers are needed! If you would like to volunteer for this event, please email Hayley at director@DuBoisCenter.org or call 815-627-0595. We look forward to seeing you on October 3!

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.

Building Church Differently - Partners in Building
The UCC Church Building and Loan Fund presents Building Church Differently as part of Partners in Building (PIB) 2021 on September 22 and 23. PIB is a multi-day training event, where leaders from congregations are invited to attend and engage in various informative presentations and workshops with information on how to repurpose, finance, and manage church-owned property. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from and engage with experts including a variety of topics: Navigating Land Use, Repurposing Resources for Mission, Faith Based Entrepreneurs, Fund Raising, Social Media & Marketing and more. For $30 a ticket, you get access to a whole host of innovative faith leaders and transformative content. Click here to register.
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 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 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
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
POSTPONED - Highland Evangelical UCC will postpone the GriefShare Program until after the first of the year.

Immanuel United Church of Christ of Hamel celebrates its 150th Anniversary in 2021.
Former pastors, members, and friends are invited to come visit and reminisce! Here is the celebration schedule.
- Sunday, September 12: Immanuel Founders Skit will be presented during the 9 am worship service.
- Sunday, September 19: an Immanuel Marriage Reunion. Anyone married at Immanuel will be recognized during the 9 am worship service. We will display wedding pictures of those couples. Send your photo to officeiucc@gomadison.com or text to Ruth's phone 618-910-8999.
- Saturday, September 25: A FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT featuring The Wild HouseKats will be held outside (weather permitting) on the church lawn from 6-8 pm. In case of inclement weather, it will be held indoors in Fellowship Hall. There will be hotdogs and drinks available. Bring lawn chairs and enjoy the 60's, 70's, and 80's music!
- Sunday, September 26: The history and meanings of their sanctuary stained-glass windows will be explained during the 9 am worship service.
- Sunday, October 3: Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, will be our guest speaker at a 10:00 am worship service. There will be no 9 am service. A catered Celebration Dinner will follow, where an Anniversary Booklet/Directory will be available for a small donation. RSVP for the Celebration Dinner and to order your Anniversary Booklet by September 5. These services will be live on Facebook for those who cannot attend in person.

Region 7
The Women's Guild of Okawville St. Peter's UCC will hold an All You Can Eat Shrimp Boil on September 3 from 6 pm - 8 pm at the Okawville Community Club Park Pavilion. Menu includes shrimp, sausage, potatoes, corn cornbread, desserts, and lemonade. Hot dogs, chips and dessert will also be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit DuBois Center and the CHOW (Combating Hunger on Weekends) Program. Adults $15; Kids 4-12 $8; Kids 3 & Under Free. Tickets are available at St. Peter's Church Office at 618-243-5973; at the Old Exchange National Bank; or from Women's Guild Members.

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.
**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: MediatechDirectorsSearch@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.

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