The Bliss of Grace
We had been waiting for a time when it was safe to have this baptism. Now not only was he a bit older than his parents had planned for him to be on his baptism day, but a baby sister arrived in the meantime as well. As I stood with the parents and godparents at the baptismal font holding these two precious little ones, I had flashes of others who had stood there before. Parents and godparents lovingly holding little ones in the arms of those earnestly hoping they too could live out these vows and earnestly hoping this would not be the moment in which a meltdown would ensue due to hunger, lack of sleep, or the strange feeling of having too many eyes on them.

On this day, like so many, he seemed uncomfortable being held upright in his big boy, celebratory attire. He seemed disinterested in the explanation of meaning and memory making, of which he will later come to know. He seemed distracted by the sensory overload of sights, sounds, and smells of the chancel space which far too many people other than those with robes and stoles feel at home. He seemed disconnected by play and prose unfolding in front of him, of promissory call and response. He seemed detached from all of it until he saw the water.

I had asked the parents if he could help pour the water into the font. This visible act is not about adding a dramatic flair. It is about making the invisible visible. Water being the ordinary element that becomes the vehicle for the extraordinary. The sacramental water of baptism is an outward sign of God’s grace.

There is an intrinsic invitational element of water. It has the power to nourish, refresh, restore, renew, and revitalize us. To fully embrace it takes a bit of

Prayer list for Sept 5 - 11, 2021
Churches & Pastors
- New Hanover Zoar UCC, Rev. R.J. (Lisa) Morgan
Retired Pastors
- Rev. Robert Tripp, Effingham, IL
- Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer, Nashville, IL

People with Life Concerns
- Pray for the family of Rev. Delbert Miller as they mourn his death. Del passed away following a stroke on August 20, 2021. He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Christine Heckendorn, his two children from a previous marriage, Jason (Kris) and Rachel (Andrew), four grandchildren Alec, William, David, and Maya, his younger brother Doug and far too many friends to number. A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 11am. Epiphany UCC, 2911 McNair, St Louis, MO 62118. Colorful clothing is encouraged. Memorials can be made to Epiphany Church. The obituary follows:

Delbert Keith Miller was born October 15, 1940, to Delbert and Katherine (O’Connor) Miller in St Louis, MO. He graduated from Elmhurst College in 1962 and in 1965 earned a Master of Theology from Eden Seminary. His career in ministry within the United Church of Christ lasted until his retirement in 2011 and included 10 years as Chaplain and Director of Group Life at the Evangelical Children’s Home and time as pastor of St Peter's Evangelical UCC in Granite City.
letting go. I saw all of this in the little one about to be baptized as he set his eyes on the water. The pitcher which held the water was of no interest to him.

He was mesmerized by the water. It was not enough to behold it. He needed to cup it in his hands to bring it closer to himself. He needed to feel it and experience it for himself. Nothing else would hold his attention. His eyes widened and his face shined. The water became his focus and delight. His joy and curiosity were palpable.

I am not sure what others saw. As I know there might have been some who were uncomfortable with the playfulness of the holy water. Yet, what I saw, and what I believe God saw, was what God longs for us to act as God’s children. The pure bliss of experiencing the fulness and abundance of grace.

While this little one will not remember the specifics of his baptism day, I hope he will recall the bliss of being in the presence of the Holy One. I hope he will experience the rush of grace when he needs it the most. I hope he will remember the feeling of being held by those who love him the most. I hope he will never lose his wonder and playfulness of the Divine.

This is my hope, not only for him, but for us as well.

Blessings,
Rev. Shana Johnson
ISC Conference Minister

**Just to Clear Things Up**

On Monday, August 30, Kent Silda, the current Director of Philanthropy of the United Church of Christ, sent out an email that has caused some confusion. The email was announcing a new mailing address for the United Church of Christ as they are preparing to move their offices to a new location in Cleveland. While in the body of the email was stated, "please let your treasurers and members know of this immediate address change," this caused many of our pastors and church treasurers to wonder if this is the address we should send our OCWM contributions to. While this is the address to send direct contributions to fundraising campaigns of the UCC, it is **NOT** where general contributions from our churches should be sent.

**Please continue to send your OCWM contributions directly to the Illinois South**

Del loved life and sought to share that love with those around him, always with a calming presence and an undertone of mischief. He loved storytelling and laughter, movies (especially Mel Brooks), jazz music (with a particular soft spot for Dave Brubeck), and the banjo, which he picked up again late in life by taking lessons in his 70s. He was the Limerick King to his friends but suddenly couldn’t remember any when asked by his children to tell a few. Del was an Eagle Scout, a skilled scale plastic modeler, a voracious reader and a WWII reenactor. Driven by a need to support those who help others, he volunteered as a police chaplain in Granite City, IL. He was active with the Masonic Lodge and served as the Grand Chaplain of Missouri 1999-2000. He went skydiving, always wanted to buy one more coffee mug, and loved to travel with his wife, especially to places that had good food and music. Del started a Wednesday breakfast ministry at Epiphany UCC which fed the stomachs and souls of many. He believed that all people were deserving of respect and was vocal in his support of numerous causes. He was quick to make people feel welcome. He enjoyed a glass of whiskey, but always stocked plenty of what anyone else might want when they visited his home. A secret (not so secret) lover of sweets, he hid candy throughout his house and ate a big bowl of ice cream every night.

Condolences may be sent to his wife, Christine Heckendorn, 10550 Tamara Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128 -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 **School Cafeteria Employees**, our Hunger Action Partners.
Conference office at 1312 Broadway, Highland, Illinois 62249. When your local church gives to OCWM, the largest portion of your contribution stays within the Conference to support the ministries you hold near and dear. In the Illinois South Conference, we send a percentage of all the OCWM contributions we receive from ISC churches on to the National setting to support our wider Church ministries while keeping some for local ministries. We continue to be deeply grateful for all the ways you so generously give to your local churches, your Conference, and the wider Church of the United Church of Christ, as together, we seek to expand our reach of Christian love and extravagant welcome.

Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

- 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.
- Pray for those in Louisiana who are dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

---

ALL Are Invited!
Mark Your Calendars to Attend THE ORDINATION of Jason Eisele on Sunday, September 5 at 4 pm CST on Zoom

It will be a mostly Zoom event due to the ongoing pandemic and rising hospitalizations, and unfortunately, only a few participants will be on site. Nonetheless, we are so grateful that all can attend from wherever they are, and we encourage everyone to zoom in and wear RED! Please use the link below to join us. We look forward to celebrating this joyous event with our conference and beyond. Peace and Joy, The Members of Church of the Good Shepherd UCC

Bulletin for Ordination Service.

Topic: Jason Eisele’s Ordination, Virtually at the Church of the Good Shepherd UCC
Time: 5 September 2021 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Join Jason’s Ordination event
https://zoom.us/j/99038341533?pwd=dHR5RWhjYmNSUmdzWDhYOFJNdW1tZz09
Meeting ID: 990 3834 1533 Passcode: 586586

---

ALL UCC authorized pastors and delegates from each ISC congregation, please mark your calendars and plan to attend THE ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL of John Pawloski on Sunday, September 26 at 3 pm CST on Zoom

The Illinois South Conference Committee on Ministry invites you to the Ecclesiastical Council of John Pawloski at 3 pm CST on Sunday, September 26. Ecclesiastical Councils are special called meetings of a Conference and the last step in the process for Members in Discernment towards ordination. YOU are an important part of the process in determining if a candidate is worthy to become ordained by the United Church of Christ. We will need a quorum to officially conduct our business of the day, so we hope you will make this a priority and plan to attend. See the "Call Notice" to see who qualifies as voting delegates representing your church for the Ecclesiastical Council.

In order to prep for the Ecclesiastical Council, please make sure to download and read a copy of John’s paper. After John presents to the gathered body (the council), you will have
the opportunity to ask him questions about his paper and his call to ministry. Then
together we will deliberate, discern and decide on John's path to ordination.
The link to the Zoom, as well as John's ordination paper, were emailed out to all UCC
authorized pastors and voting delegates of the Conference. Please look in your email
box. All the information you need to know to attend the Ecclesiastical Council will also be
available on the Conference website at isucc.org.
Illinois South Conference of the UCC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
  Topic: Ecclesiastical Council of John Pawloski
  Time: Sep 26, 2021 03:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7088890946
  Meeting ID: 708 889 0946
  Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kwqtG1Pt9

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 St, 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 rear and side entrances of sanctuary for our mission of the month,
Hitz Home.

Bring on the Zucchini!  Zucchini Spaghetti
1-1/2 tsp salt       4 - 5 C boiling water
12 oz. spaghetti    3/4 C margarine
1 med. onion, sliced 1 C chopped celery
1-1/2 1b sliced zucchini 2 large tomatoes, peeled & cubed
3/4 tsp salt        1/2 tsp dried oregano
1/2 tsp dried basil 1 small clove garlic, minced
Add 1-1/2 tsp salt to rapidly boiling water. Gradually add spaghetti so that water continues to boil.
Cook uncovered, stirring occasionally until tender. Drain in colander.
Meanwhile, melt margarine in large skillet. Add onion and celery and sauté until almost tender. Add zucchini, tomatoes, and remaining seasoning. Cover and cook over medium heat 10 minutes. Uncover and cook 5 minutes or until zucchini is tender. Toss with spaghetti. From Sue Tinge – Christ UCC Belleville

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Golfing to support Hoyleton!

Last week, Hoyleton Youth and Family Services held their annual Golf Scramble at Tamarack. St. Paul UCC Belleville had three teams (12 people) supporting Hoyleton and representing our church. Individual acknowledgments go to Debbie Lippert who got closest to the pin and Donna Davis for longest drive. Other St. Paul team members included Judy Koch, Debbie Lippert, Sherri Gericke, Wendy Mayer, Sue Hoffmann, Peggy Burke, Marlene Mueller, Jean Coveleskie, Wayne Caughman, Paul Sutherland, Dave Brannon and Donna Davis. All of us had a great time and supported a very worthy cause. If you want to join us next year, contact any of us. I think it’s safe to say we’d do it again!”

Yay! Lunch Bunch!

A big shout out to the Lunch Bunch and their children’s summer lunch program. This program, coordinated by Melissa Loyet (Evangelical UCC – Highland) has 30 sites serving the communities of Highland, Alhambra, Pierron, New Douglas, and Grantfork. Thirteen churches pool their financial resources and over 150 volunteers work together to feed children throughout the summer months. In their 5 years of service, they have served 31,764 lunches! Well done good and faithful servants.

The 2021 Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects serving our homeless and immigrant neighbors and communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

Most churches collect the offering on October 3, 2021 as part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time. Click here for all the NIN 2021 information and PDF downloads.

- Order these print items for your church today:
  - Offering envelope
  - 11” x 17” glossy poster

Items are FREE, with FREE shipping/handling.

Hurricane Ida Impacting U.S. Southeast

Ida is impacting Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama with significant power outages and other wind and water damage. To stay on top of the unfolding situation, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is listening in to coordination calls and reaching out to UCC Conference Ministers and Back Bay Mission as they begin their damage assessments.
What’s the best way to help now? Send money. UCC Disaster Response and Recovery Minister Lesli Remaly said, “For a storm this size, money makes good sense as we know long-term recovery and rebuilding will be necessary.” Click this link to make an immediate donation [UCC Donations Page](#) or send donations through your local UCC church to be forwarded to the Illinois South Conference and then on to Disaster Ministries.

This also would be a great time for churches to assemble Church World Service Emergency Clean-Up Buckets and School and Hygiene Kits. CWS stocks kits for disasters just like Ida. Get full specifications and apply for a $250 UCC Kits Matching Grant to make your contribution go even farther!

To save on shipping charges, deliver your buckets and kits to the CWS drop off depot on Oct. 9th from 9:30 to 11:30 am. at Lifewise - 1321 South 11th St., St. Louis MO 63104. Contact Priscilla Self, ISC Disaster Response Coordinator at 618/318-0083 or [pjj48@hotmail.com](mailto:pjj48@hotmail.com) for more information or with any questions.

**Hygiene Kits**
Provide kits to make all the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

**School Kits**
Give children in impoverished communities and refugee camps the basic tools for learning

**Clean-Up Buckets**
Emergency cleanup buckets equip people after a flood, tornado or other disaster

---

**A Note from Christy Pursell, ISC Executive Administrator**
I had the privilege of sitting at Nancy Berry’s table last night (along with her husband (Bill), sister (Judy), Jim Achenbach (board chair), Pastor Katie Jo Bielke (photo left), Collinsville St. John UCC Associate Pastor, and Pastor Jenn Sowell-Glover (photo right), Collinsville St. John UCC Senior Pastor, and her husband Allen). What a wonderful room full of women doing incredible things in our community. They were all honored as Women of Distinction by the YWCA of Southwestern Illinois. It was good for the heart to hear the kinds of stories that were told about these incredible women, including Nancy Berry (photo center) of St John’s Community Care.

---

**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:

- **Collinsville St. John UCC - September 2 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**
- **Grantfork United Church of Christ in Grantfork-Sept 11 & Oct 2, 10 am - 3 pm each day**
- **New Badon Zion UCC - September 14 from 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm**
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 has 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.
(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
- Mom Squad – Mini-Event Kit for Moms
- Bible Study: Leviticus and Numbers – 9 books
- Philip Yancey’s Prayer Group Study – 12 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).
• Cotton Patch Gospel (classic) – reel to reel movie
• Fieldon UCC Cookbooks – about 12 of them

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.

Prepping for Fall Festival
Calling all Bakers
We are now accepting donations for our “Sweet Treat Shop” at DuBois Center for the Fall Fest held Oct 3, 2021. We accept all kinds of baked goods – cookies, cakes, pies, candies, all of the good stuff! This will be a fundraiser for DuBois Center and goes directly into scholarships to attend camp. Please consider donating and contact Hayley at director@duboiscenter.org or 815-627-0595 to coordinate!

Pie a Pastor
Calling all Illinois South Conference Pastors! One way we’ll raise money for DuBois Center at this year’s Fall Festival is by collecting donations to “pie a pastor” – or Hayley. We’ll set out jars and the person with the most money in their jar toward the end of the day will be pied in the face. If you’re planning to be at the DuBois Center Fall Festival and would submit your name to possibly be pied in the face, please contact Hayley at director@duboiscenter.org or 815-627-0595.

Updates on DuBois Center’s COVID-19 mitigation strategy
As people of faith, we know intimately the importance of following the heart of the law. We were lucky this summer to have loose masking restrictions limited to inside our main buildings and when physical distancing could not be maintained. Our summer staff were truly commendable in their efforts to encourage their campers to mask up, and as such, no COVID-19 cases were reported involving our summer programming.
Our situation as the Delta Variant of COVID-19 spreads through the country is different than it was even just two months ago. As such, we plan to not only keep enforcing our indoor mask policy, but will be enforcing a mask policy in our outdoor spaces at our larger fall events where physical distance can’t be maintained, such as Fall Festival. During such events, those without a mask that covers their nose and mouth will be asked to leave until they have a properly worn mask on. DuBois Center cannot guarantee that we will have extra masks on site when you arrive, so please bring a mask with you when you are planning to visit. This very small, very simple, easy step helps reduce the risk to our wider community and helps us stay open for events. We encourage everyone to be smart, safe, and well.

Join me for Office Hours
One of the hardest things about starting a new position during a global pandemic has been that I have so far been unable to meet many of the people who support DuBois Center. As such, I will be hosting monthly “office hours” on Zoom the first Thursday of each month from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. Please “come by” these virtual office hours and introduce yourself, share an idea for our ministry, or catch up on the many happenings on site! Join starting this Thursday, September 2, 2021 at this link.
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.

Application Deadline Extended to September 19th
The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience that supports emerging spiritual entrepreneurs in launching enterprises that create a just world for all. Adese was designed to equip outside-of-the-box leaders who imagine all kinds of ventures, new models of ministry, nonprofit organizations, social or spiritual enterprises, or for-profit business ventures, that advance the mission of the church in unprecedented ways. We are accepting applications from individuals whose ventures are in the seed or incubator stages. From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial and human resource aspects of
launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all. Click here to apply.

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

SEPTEMBER is Hunger Action Month.
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.

**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.

**Offering Flyer**

**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 (Combatting 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: 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: Choir Director**
Highland Evangelical UCC is searching for a Choir 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