I AM THE HORIZON SEEKER

When life has drug me to my knees,
I look above and search for stars
That fade into the blackened trees.
I am the horizon seeker.

When arguments are harsh and mean,
I look above to see the blue
Mix with yellow, purple, green.
I am the horizon seeker.

When long-time friendships fade and die,
I climb to reach a mountain top
To see the earth touch the sky.
I am the horizon seeker.

When loving hearts react from pain,
I watch how clouds form a line
Between the sun and pending rain.
I am the horizon seeker.

When mixed-up feelings make me cry,
I see the sun arrive and leave.
Saying hello. Saying good-bye.
I am the horizon seeker.

Seeing the joint of heaven and earth,
Far in the distance, yet clearly there.
I wait for strength...just sit and stare.
I am the horizon seeker.

©Lynnette Schuepbach

A note from Lynnette: Nature has a way of clearing, soothing, and enlightening the Soul. I invite you to take a look.

Blessings...

Prayer list for
Oct 24 - Oct 30, 2021

Churches & Pastors
- Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Christy (Donald) Eckert
- Troy Friedens UCC, Rev. Dr. Tim (Danielle) Harrison

Retired Pastors
- Revs. Pamela Smith and Earl Menchhofer, Conyers, GA

People with Life Concerns
- Please keep Patti Causer in your prayers as she mourns the death of her mother, Anna B. Kern, at age 104 in August, and the death of her brother-in-law in September. Also pray for her husband, Rev. Bill Causer, as he deals with some health issues. Cards may be sent to them at 1315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.
- Pray for Norma Borgmann who had surgery after a fall. Norma is a member of St. Peter UCC in Centralia, has served on many ISC and DuBois Center teams, and served as the ISC Moderator from 2013 - 2017. Cards may be sent to her at 6 Blackberry Run, Centralia, IL 62801.
- Please keep Pastor Brett (Carolyn) Palmer in your prayers as he recovers from some health issues. Pastor Palmer is the Pastor & Teacher for Marissa Friedens UCC. Cards may be sent to 812 N Main, Marissa, IL 62257.
Do You Hate Getting Up in the Dark?
Don't worry. Change is coming. On Sun, Nov 7, daylight savings time ends, and we return to standard time. Our phones, computers, and some clocks will automatically make the adjustment, but remember to set the others back an hour the night before to regain the hour we lost last spring.

Illinois South Conference 2021 Annual Meeting Recap

- We had about 25 attendees at each of the 4 workshops.
- Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause, president of Eden Theological Seminary, gave the keynote address (view the address here at the 16 min 30 sec mark).

Here are a few follow-up items we want to share with you:

- The Saturday meeting, including business, celebrations, & worship, can be found here.
- Recordings of workshops and resources for clergy can be viewed here.
- Resources of workshops for all can be viewed here.
- Reports (written and video) from ISC committees and team as well as from our mission partners, can be found here. Feel free to use these in worship, during meetings or gatherings, or to share with your congregation.

You will hear more about the DuBois 6.0 campaign and the WISE Conference proposal that was presented at Annual Meeting in the upcoming weeks/months.

On November 14, 2021, Staunton St. Paul UCC will celebrate its 145th Anniversary. Their 10:15 am worship will feature historic stories, items, displays, and music by the Choir and Handbell Choir. The ISC Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, will bring the morning message. Following the service, a traditional Sunday dinner catered by R & B’s Restaurant will be served to dine outside, weather permitting. If not, Fellowship Hall will be utilized. Special dinner music and St. Paul UCC trivia questions will accompany the meal. Children will have an opportunity to play games that were popular in 1876. Reservations for the meal are required by October 31st at the church office by stpauluc@madisontelco.com or 618-635-2386. Please share historic items with the church. You are encouraged to wear a church T-shirt. If you need a shirt, contact the church office. Or perhaps you would like to dress in 1876 fashion? The choice is yours.

UCC Medical and Dental Benefits Plan Announce Rate Changes for 2022

Here is a link to the services that will be changing and those that will be remaining the same.
ALL UCC authorized pastors and delegates from each ISC congregation, please mark your calendars and plan to attend THE ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL of Brett Palmer on Sunday, November 7 at 3 pm CST on Zoom

The Illinois South Conference Committee on Ministry invites you to the Ecclesiastical Council of Brett Palmer at 3 pm CST on Sunday, November 7. 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 Brett’s paper. After Brett 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 Brett’s path to ordination.

All the information you need to know to attend the Ecclesiastical Council will also be available on the Conference website at iscucc.org. Join Zoom Meeting - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8964726633

Saint Jacob UCC and St. John UCC in Summerfield and Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ invite you to the Installation Service for their Pastor & Teacher, Rev. Philip Barbier on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at 3 pm at Saint Jacob UCC, 207 W Main St, Saint Jacob, Illinois 62281

All clergy who attend are welcome to robe with red stoles and arrive by 2:30 pm.

Rev. Joan Mier was officially installed on Sun, October 24 as the settled pastor and teacher of Concordia UCC in Belleville. Photo left: Rev. Joan Mier (center) is surrounded by her granddaughters, her daughter (far left) and her husband, John (far right).

Illinois South Conference has been in partnership with Ecuador for many years, but we have not been able to travel there for a couple of years because of COVID. Those of you that have not been able to participate before will be given an opportunity for a virtual pilgrimage tour presented by Global Ministries showing our Ecuador project FEDICE. You will see why we cannot let this project end. Registration fee is $25. Sessions are Oct 27, Nov 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 from 4 pm – 6 pm CST Click here for more information and to register or contact Lorna Hernandez at lhernandez@dom.disciples.org.

All Saints Day
November 1 is the traditional day in the church to remember the people who have completed their lives on earth, who continue to live in the embrace of God and in our hearts. Clergy who died this year in Illinois South Conference are Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders; Rev. W. Curtis Lee; Rev. Dr. William Koshewa; Rev. Dr. Paul D. Schippel; and Rev. Robert Coffey.
Telephone Changes
We don't want to lose touch with you. Effective October 24, it became mandatory for Illinois callers in the 618 area code to use 10 digits when placing local calls. If you are calling the ISC office or the staff cell phones, don't forget the area code - 618-654-2125.

Attention All Food Pantries
If you are looking for insights to help your pantry, this Healthy Pantry Connection newsletter with Illinois SNAP-Education may give you some good ideas. Click here to see the most recent edition.

Why a Window? Two years ago last week, Sixth Avenue United Church of Christ in Denver, where I directed youth programming, dedicated beautifully restored stained-glass windows. This window restoration project had lasted about a year. We were lucky to get a matching grant from the state's historical fund in order to preserve these beautiful windows. The work had to be done at the right season, as glass expands and contracts with the weather, and the coloration can change based on the elements to which it is exposed. The money had to be secured up front. This day felt like a big, big celebration for our church family.

And yet, on the day of the dedication, I missed it because I was working with the youth in the fellowship hall instead of being in the sanctuary. I was watching the beautiful fall morning light stream in through unstained, unrestored windows rather than the newly restored stained-glass windows. At first, I had a sense of jealousy of all those in my church who would get to experience worship and the dedication of our restored stained glass.

And then, I realized a bigger truth: I've often encountered God in spaces where stained glass would be absurd, such as hiking portions of the Appalachian Trail, listening to a new album from my favorite artists or bands, the moment my wife proposed to me, stargazing at DuBois Center, meeting my cousin's children. Often, our most sacred moments happen to us outside of the spaces we identify as sacred. God meets us at every window if we give God the opportunity. I remembered in my moment of jealousy what Mary Oliver said of prayer:

“It doesn’t have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don’t try
to make them elaborate, this isn’t
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.”

And so, two years after this moment that changed the way I perceived what is sacred, DuBois Center has become my new sacred space. We are raising money for new projects and to fix up some of our existing buildings. One of the projects on the list is new windows for Oak Lodge, and new windows for the office. My heart is warmed when I think of our current windows – the gateway to the sacred or a great view of the lake for around 55 years now. However, eventually original windows need updating – whether they are stained glass or not. Replacing these original, single-pane windows in Oak Lodge with double-pane, insulted windows at the same time we update HVAC, our energy efficiency increases greatly, and it will help us lower a high electric bill. The cost of the Oak Lodge Windows is $17,650.00. These windows give us a view into something ordinary that has become sacred to so many over the last 60 years. To contribute money to
DuBois 6.0 and help us replace these windows, visit our [website](#). I look forward to the opportunity for many more sacred encounters in Oak Lodge.

Blessings, Hayley Elliott, Acting Director of Outdoor Ministries

Elmhurst University turns 150!
On Monday, December 6, 2021, alums and friends of Elmhurst University in the Metro Area will gather for a celebratory reception. This “watch party” will begin at 5 pm in the Schroer Commons of Eden Theological Seminary, 475 East Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO. 63119. At 6 pm, we will live stream into the campus of Elmhurst University to hear the speech from President Troy VanAken and toast the Sesquicentennial. Please join in this historic moment as we recognize Elmhurst University and its relationship with the United Church of Christ. All are invited to this blessed event! For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Chaplain of Elmhurst University, H. Scott Matheney, at [hscottm@elmhurst.edu](mailto:hscottm@elmhurst.edu) or 636-617-3025.

Hope for the Holidays
At Hoyleton, we continue to move forward. With changes due to COVID-19 last year, we are improving our Hope for the Holidays Gift Drive and will do everything we can to ensure that each of our youth receive a gift or gifts at Christmas. As always, our donors help to make this happen. There are three basic ways to support Hope for the Holidays:

#1) Make a cash donation to Hoyleton online at [www.hoyleton.org](http://www.hoyleton.org) or via check specifying Hope for the Holidays on the memo line. We will shop and wrap the gifts for you.

#2) Call our office at 618-688-7092 and request some youth wish lists from Meghan. You can shop, wrap, and return the gifts to us by December 1, 2021.

#3) Visit our amazon website at [https://a.co/6n55jUm](https://a.co/6n55jUm) place your order to be delivered to us and we will wrap and tag the gift for you.

#4) Provide gift cards. Gift cards are welcome and will be used to purchase something for a child who arrives within a few days of Christmas or to give the teen the opportunity to express themselves individually and learn the meaning of a dollar.

All gifts must be in our office by December 1 so that we can organize and distribute to our youth. We are doing everything possible to work through this project safely for everyone! If you have any questions, or would like to know more, please contact Meghan at (618) 688-7092.

A Message from Deaconess Foundation’s President & CEO
Bethany Johnson-Javois wrote: “I am honored to assume the role of Deaconess’ new President and CEO and to be graced with the opportunity to serve not only today’s children, but tomorrow’s children, on both sides of the Mississippi River. To the Deaconess Foundation Board of Trustees, staff, partners, and Metropolitan St. Louis community, thank you for trusting me to lead an organization that I know we all care about deeply and for receiving me with warmth and generosity in this new capacity.

My roots in St. Louis inform who I am and the issues I feel called to address. I was born and raised in University City. My family’s history traces back to Kinloch, the oldest Black community to be incorporated in the state of Missouri. Growing up in St. Louis, I am all too familiar with the region’s segregated and fragmented history that has inflicted community-level trauma and perpetuated racial inequity. Yet, I am hopeful for and committed to a more just and equitable future we, together, will build for our children.”

Training Session for ONA and Not-Yet ONA Churches
The Coalition’s popular series of webinars resumes on Tuesday, Oct. 26 with “ONA 101,” repeated on Thursday, Nov. 4. Also in our line-up: “ONA and the Bible” (Tuesday, Nov. 2 or
Thursday, Nov. 11), “1-to-1 Conversations about ONA” (Tuesday, Nov. 9) and a revamped webinar for existing ONA churches: “ONA NEXT” (Tuesday, Nov. 16). Do you know churches that want to become ONA, but are hesitating because of the fear they might lose members and money? Let them know about this series: churches that participate in our training programs learn how an ONA process can build consensus and revive energy for mission and ministry! Scroll down this page for links to all of our webinars. You can register for an individual webinar or purchase a discounted Season Pass for all sessions. Register [here](#).

**Abuse Prevention: Back to the Basics**

On Friday, Oct 29 at 1 pm CST, the Insurance Board webcast, *Abuse Prevention: Back to Basics*, offers essential considerations and best practices from the nation’s leading expert in abuse prevention through Insurance Board’s partnership with Praesidium. As ministries return to fully on-site programming, reevaluating safety considerations are critical. Our expert facilitator, Ross Mitchell, JD., will discuss the need to review child abuse prevention policies for necessary updates, considerations for electronic communications, and appropriate guidelines for staff and volunteers. Register [here](#).

**St. John’s Community Care Coffee Talk with Caregivers**

is an informational group created for caregivers and meets on the last Monday of each month from 1 pm - 2 pm on Zoom. This group will cover a variety of topics to help support and educate those who care for people living with dementia. Find out more from Stacey Rhodes at srhodes@stjohnscc.org.

**What’s Happening in Illinois South Conference**

**Information Desk/Visitor Counter - Free** - The Evangelical UCC has an information Desk/Visitor Counter that needs a new home. 8’ long x 4’ high x 4’ wide (or deep) If you are interested, contact Barb at BBray@evucc.org. No cost but ask that you pick up.

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME:** Two (2) Peavey Impulse 500 Speakers. Contact Salem UCC at 618-488-3215.

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME:** Kimball spinet piano. Contact Salem UCC at 618-488-3215.

**Region 1 - Marion Zion UCC**

will hold its Drive-Thru/Carry-Out Chicken & Dumplings Dinner on Fri, Nov 5 from 10:30 am - 2 pm. Menu includes home style chicken & dumplings, green beans, cole slaw, roll, and dessert. Cost is $12. Delivery available for orders of $10 or more. Pre-orders encouraged at 618-997-5190. Quarts of chicken & dumplings available by preorder at $12. Check out the online silent auction at www.32auctions.com/zionuccmarion.

**Region 3 - Collinsville St. John UCC**

will hold its Drive-Thru Only Wurst Markt on Thurs, Nov 4, from 11 am – 2 pm for lunch and 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm for dinner. Cost paid by cash or check $12 each. Menu is sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes & gravy, creamed peas, applesauce, horseradish, and dessert. Sausage Sales are $4/pound of uncooked links only. Deadline to order is Oct 27. Contact 618-344-2526. Pickup will be Nov 3 from 11 am – 6 pm by drive-thru only at West Church Portico.
**Region 5** - Marine UCC will hold its Drive Thru Whole Hog Pork Sausage Dinner on Sun, Nov 7 from 11 am - 5:30 pm at the church. Menu is whole hog pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, and apple pie. Raffle of a quilt, side of beef, whole hog and 4 dinners for 2022. Fresh meat sale on Sat, Nov 6 from 8 am - 3 pm and Sun, Nov 7 from 11 am - 5:30 pm. Sausage links, ribs, and backbones in 5 lb. packages. Liver sausage and head cheese also available. For raffle tickets and/or purchase of fresh meat, check the church website or call 618-887-4465.

**Region 7** - Zion UCC, Addieville will hold its 71st Annual Wurst Markt on Wednesday, November 10. Drive-thru only at Addieville Community Club, 318 W 3rd Street, Addieville, IL 62214 from 4 pm – 7 pm.

**Region 9** - Belleville Concordia UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sun, Oct 31 from 11 am - 3 pm at the church. Carryout/Curb service only. Menu includes pork sausage (2 pieces for adult, 1 for child), mashed potatoes & gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, horseradish, and bread. Adults $11; Children 12 & under $5. For information, call 618-476-3377.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**Communication Coordinator** - Columbia St. Paul UCC seeks to effectively communicate its work and ministry through the inspired and creative leadership of the Communications Coordinator. We are actively seeking to fill this newly created role in this exciting period of growth and change. The coordinator will create, organize, plan, and implement effective communication strategies, messaging, and virtual events on behalf of the congregation in collaboration with clergy, staff, and volunteers. Pay range is $18 - $22 per hour depending on experience level. To apply, send a cover letter with salary requirements, resume and portfolio, to jobs@stpaulcolumbia.org.

**Director of Chancel Choir & Director of Handbell Choir** - St. John UCC in Mascoutah is seeking a Director of Chancel Choir and a Director of Handbell Choir (perhaps as one position). These are part-time positions and job descriptions are on the church website. Send resume to pastor.hugh@saintjohnucc.org. The Chancel Choir is accompanied by Dr. Catherine Burge (piano/organ/keyboard). Weekly rehearsals for Chancel Choir are Wednesday evenings (September thru May). Handbells play 6 times per year and meet for two rehearsals prior to each performance. Each position requires music experience and ability, together with organizational, relationship, leadership, and communication skills. The chosen candidate will work as part of a team in providing enrichment of the parish music program.

**Nurse** - Deaconess Nurse Ministry is looking for a nurse to work part time (9 hours per week) at Uni-Pres Kindercottage and a food pantry in Belleville. Contact Donna Pupillo at dpupillo@faithnurses.org if you are interested.

**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 stpaulucc.org for a full job description. Send a full resume to MediaTechDirectorSearch@stpaulucc.org.
**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.
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 program information, contact Rylee Hodges-Stone at 618-787-2202 or program@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