ISC Workshop: “Lifting the Shame”
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, UCC Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, has come to be known as a powerful voice among our churches in the Illinois South Conference. She encourages our congregations to provide faithful ministry to and with people with mental health conditions. On October 14, 2021, she led an ISC Annual Meeting Workshop entitled “Lifting the Shame: How Churches Can Break the Silence about Mental Health.”
Borrowing Brené Brown’s understanding of shame as an intensely painful feeling or experience of believing oneself to be so flawed as to be unworthy of love, Sarah spoke of the huge shadow cast by the shame of mental illnesses. This shadow prevents people and churches from talking openly about mental health. That resulting silence intensifies the isolation many people feel. The loneliness deepens the stigma, the shadow, the shame.
Sarah shared a story about a family member of hers who died by suicide. The family needed the pastor who conducted the funeral to say the word “suicide” at least once in the service. This touched me as I recalled a story from over 35 years ago. A fellow seminary student died by suicide when home over Christmas break. The following summer, I was invited to preach a sermon in my home church about my experiences at seminary. I wrote the word “suicide” in my sermon, but I could not muster up the courage to speak that word in front of the congregation. Instead, I spoke of our struggles to deal with this student’s “death.” I feared stirring up other people’s painful memories and experiences with their own loved ones who had died by suicide. I now understand that NOT saying the word suicide promotes understandings of such matters as moral failings rather than as medical health issues. That increases the stigma against those living with mental health concerns. Sarah recommended a book called The Life-Saving Church: Faith

Prayer list for Nov 7 - Nov 13, 2021
Churches & Pastors
-Valmeyer St. John UCC, Rev. Steven Boorsma
-Waterloo St. Paul UCC, Rev. Jeff McCarn
Retired Pastors
- Rev. Robert and Doris Utke, St. Paul, MN

People with Life Concerns
-Pray for Rev. Bill Causer, as he deals with some health issues. Cards may be sent to him at 1315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.
-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.
-Please hold in prayer the people and families of the US service members and civilians who have been killed or injured during the withdrawal of troops in Afghanistan. Also pray for the many more wounded and their families. May peace come to the hearts of everyone.
-Pray for all 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 suffering from the aftermath of natural disasters as they recover and mourn friends and family who were lost.
Communities and Suicide Prevention, by Rachel Keefe.

A group of church members at Grantfork UCC studied Sarah’s first book entitled Blessed Are the Crazy a few years ago, and that propelled us as a congregation to become WISE: “Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged with respect to people with mental health concerns.” This designation does not mean that we always know how best to address such matters. It simply means that we have created a covenant to work at bringing mental health concerns out of the shadows and into the light. We hope this helps reduce the stigma and shame, and that it helps us all grow closer as we share our faith journey.

I am grateful to Sarah for her continued ministry with the ISC. I have added The Life-Saving Church to my reading list. I encourage ISC congregations to explore the possibility of becoming WISE. I am excited by the prospects of our Conference becoming WISE. Find out more.

Blessings,

Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Pastor & Teacher for Grantfork United Church of Christ

---

ALL UCC authorized clergy and delegates from ISC churches, 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 isucc.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.

---

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 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 at lhernandez@dom.disciples.org.
Thanksgiving Is Approaching, and I want to share a process that my book club has been doing for several years. Each day, we try to add to our text thread things that we are grateful for and consider a blessing. They are usually simple things. I’m giving you a taste of my blessing and encourage you to start a journal of things that make you happy for each day. It’s a healthy attitude adjuster.

I’m blessed by the glistening dew in the morning sun, the hawk that sat on a telephone wire looking for breakfast, the sunsets from my future home, a mouse curled up in a small straw nest OUTSIDE my house in the egress window well, rain on a metal roof, clean sheets, helping my 91-year-old aunt sell her old computer (to buy a new one), listening to the local school band concert (where my grandson plays), the growing artistic talent of my granddaughter, a text from my 27-year-old granddaughter, and the cooperation of volunteers. Happy Thanksgiving! Lynnette Schuepbach

The Rev. Shana Johnson’s email has been hacked. If you get an email from her address sjohnson@iscucc.org requesting you to open a file and sign before returning, DO NOT CLICK ON THE OPEN BUTTON, even if you have asked if it is a legit email. We have taken care of removing their access to her account, and clicking on the link and following their instructions will give them access to your email account. Just delete it. Be careful. It’s a phishing expedition.

Become a Midwife for God’s Work

Over the years, a handful of my ministry mentors have encouraged me to think of doing ministry by becoming a midwife. A very good friend of mine started the course of study to be a midwife recently. I’ve had the privilege of learning from her things about this practice of midwifery, which has been around longer than modern means of assisting childbirth.

As a midwife, you are not the one doing all the work, but rather, you get to play a supporting role in new life that is forming. You get to journey alongside a growing family, support them in the months leading up to delivery, and assist in the delivery of new life into the world. After birth, you get to support new parents. Thinking of our ministries through the lens of midwifery allows us to see the truth: God is already at work everywhere; we are merely bringing God’s work into focus. Sometimes at DuBois Center, this metaphor is blatant. For example, in August, we welcomed two new barn cats from a local shelter. While we were under the assumption that both had been spayed, it turned out that one of them was pregnant. She gave birth to three kittens at some point in the last two weeks. At first, she did not want to let any of us near her or the kittens. With patience and armed with treats, we have been able to help our new cat mom care for new kittens. In this way, we have become evident midwives to new life. In many ways, this is a metaphor for the work that God is already doing at DuBois Center – I have been surprised by the joy and new life at every corner.

While we gear up for what is next in the form of our capital campaign, DuBois 6.0, and chipping away at tasks for our spring and summer seasons, I hope you will join our ministry to bring God’s ongoing work into focus at DuBois Center. On our website, you can learn more about DuBois 6.0 and the projects we are completing. You can contact either me at director@duboiscenter.org or our program director, Rylee at program@duboiscenter.org for more information on what we are up to and how to be involved on the ground here.

May we all become midwives to the work of God among us.
Blessings, Hayley Elliott, Acting Director of Outdoor Ministry
Changes in the Herd.
Recently, our horse team made the difficult decision that it was time to retire one of our most beloved horses, Thunder. Thunder had been part of our herd since 2007 and was a camper favorite for many years. She had more recently struggled to keep on weight and needed to be somewhere where she could be fed and checked in on more regularly. Last Thursday evening, she went to a new home, where she will be reunited with Magic and join a new family of horses. While we are glad that Thunder is off to enjoy her retirement, she will be greatly missed in our barn.

And we know that loss and new life often go hand in hand. On Friday morning, we got the call of not one, but two new horse donations to DuBois Center. Nevada, a 19-year old Dun mare, and Sierra, a 17-year-old Paint mare officially joined our herd on Saturday, October 30. Nevada and Sierra were donated by a friend of one of our horse volunteers, and will be a very welcome addition to the DuBois Center herd.

Photo Previous Page: Thunder in her prime.
Photo above left: Rylee Hodges-Stone and Nevada, 19-year-old Dun Mare. A dun horse is used to describe any bay, black, or chestnut-based horse affected by the dilution gene that brightens both red and black pigments in its coat color, lightening the base body coat and suppressing the underlying base color to the mane, tail, legs, and primitive markings.
Photo above right: Catie Goetter and Sierra, 17-year-old Paint mare. Paint Horse is a breed of horse that combines both the conformational characteristics of a western stock horse with a pinto spotting pattern of white and dark coat colors.

On August 7, Uplands held a 100th Anniversary party to honor the legacy of Dr. May Wharton, founder of Uplands Village, and to celebrate Uplands Village today. Music, refreshments, and a program including historians, town and county officials, and executives of Uplands and United Church Homes made it a joyous event.

Uplands began as the dream of Dr. May Wharton, sent by the American Missionary Association to serve as Pleasant Hill Academy physician. Soon she began answering calls for medical help in surrounding areas, often traveling at night on her faithful horse "Billy." On August 7, 1921, she opened a two-bed hospital in Pleasant Hill. A year later she opened an 8-bed hospital that grew to offer 20 beds, then opened outpatient clinics and began recruiting doctors and training nurses to assist her. To better serve the whole county, she went on to found the Cumberland Medical Center, a 187-bed acute-care hospital in Crossville. But this dedicated and caring woman still wasn't done. She saw a need to house and care for those who had spent their lives in service to others. In 1957, she built the Wharton Nursing Home and the first affordably-priced independent-living homes surrounding it. She called her village "Uplands."

Dr. May Wharton wouldn't recognize her village as she knew it in her day, but she'd be pleased to know her dream lives on. Based on her strong pioneering spirit and a rich tradition of providing excellent and affordable health care, Uplands Village now offers a full spectrum of continuum-of-care services.
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 5:30 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 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 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 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.

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

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

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 (with reservations) 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. 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?
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.

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.

Grantfork UCC will hold its annual Pork Sausage Supper on Sat, Nov 13, from 2 pm until 7 pm. This year it will be offered as Drive-Thru only. All meals cost $11 and include homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and milk gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, and applesauce. Fresh packaged sausage will also be available beyond the Drive-Thru route. This year's proceeds will benefit the Grantfork UCC Cemetery.

Region 7 - Plum Hill St. John’s UCC will hold its Drive-Thru Wurstmarkt 2021 on Wed, Nov 3 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Menu includes sausage, "the real deal" mashed potatoes, peas, sauerkraut and applesauce. $12 per meal.

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

**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 our website stpaulucc.org for a full job description. For those interested, please 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  CHHS  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

facebook  twitter  linkedin