Reformation Reminder
In the Protestant liturgical calendar, we set aside times both for the observance of Reformation Sunday as well as All Saints Day. Per widely accepted tales of church history, on October 31 of 1517, a German monk by the name of Martin Luther nailed what would be known as his “ninety-five theses” on the door of the All-Saints’ Church in Wittenberg. Many have speculated (and with good reason) that Martin Luther chose “All Saints’ Day” as a way to get people’s attention because they would already be primed to be thinking about the ancestors of the faith and how they have formed and “reformed” the beliefs, traditions, and practices of the Church.

Yet, when Protestants mistakenly think of Reformation Sunday only as a historical instead of a theological event, they miss the point. It is easy to agree with Luther’s critique of the Church at that time. We pat ourselves on the back on how far we have come and how evolved we are now.

As a whole Luther’s critique was how the Church, which was originally meant and created for offering the freedom of Christ to all people, had turned into a place of oppression. If we miss this finer point of the critical role “reformers” play, we miss an opportunity for deeper reflection and awareness of how we need the “Luthers” in our midst.

We need those who will wake us up. We need people who will call us to face the difficult truth that injustices, insensitivities, and inequalities still exist. Reformation is the process of facing these realities and choosing to move towards more authentic, bold, and faithful ways of living as the Body of Christ in which all of God’s beloveds are fully seen, heard, and loved.

Prayer list for Nov 14 - Nov 20, 2021
Churches & Pastors
- Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole
- Wood River St. John UCC, Rev. Dwayne (Donna) Dollgener, Interim Pastor
Retired Pastors
- Rev. Loren and Grace Windhorst, Vernon Hills, IL

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.
- Keep Rev. Gus (Sue) Kuether in your prayers as he recovers from surgery. Rev. Kuether is a retired ISC pastor and has served on many ISC teams and committees. Cards may be sent to him at 536 Pebble Brook Ln, Belleville IL 62221.
- 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
Luther’s act of nailing his critiques on the door continues to be a powerful metaphor for the need for reformation, renovation, and restoration. Even though this process can be painful at times, it is necessary. It is part of our baptismal calling. We are named and called as Christ’s ambassadors, those sent out to continue to live out the mission and ministry of Christ and to invite others to do the same. Yet, when we discover there are stumbling blocks in the way of helping people to be formed in the image of God and experience the presence of God through grace alone, we are called to stand up and speak up.

The work reforming and refashioning the Church is essential. If the Church is to live, it must continually be reformed to reflect the Christ we follow and serve. So even though we might celebrate Reformation Sunday as a way of remembering our history, even more importantly, let us celebrate the work of reformation each time that we gather, study, worship, and go forth into the world as Christ’s disciples.

Blessings,
Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister
Photo courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, Open Access Program

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

The Youth Group from O’Fallon United Church of Christ prepared and delivered treat bags for the children at Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Kudos to you for your generosity and sharing a joyful time with the children.

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.

Creation Care the Focus of Nov. 30 Giving Tuesday campaign by Connie Larkman
Honor the earth. It’s a sacred commitment in which many United Christ of Christ congregations are immersed. Honor the Earth is also a Native-led nonprofit organization founded to raise awareness
and financial support for Indigenous environmental justice. Both will benefit from this year’s Giving Tuesday campaign. The Native-led nonprofit is headed by Indigenous leader Winona LaDuke. Care for God’s creation is the UCC’s 2021 focus for this giving opportunity, which this year falls on Nov. 30. The UCC plans to devote 70 percent of the funds raised to Honor the Earth, led by Winona LaDuke. The remaining 30 percent of Giving Tuesday gifts will be utilized by the UCC Council for Climate Justice, a grassroots effort focused on climate education and environmental justice. The funds will be used to foster youth and young adult climate justice leadership. Read more.

Christ Dupo Celebrates 100 Year Anniversary
The photos say it all. The entire congregation (above left photo) is proud of its history. They celebrated people who served at the church through the years. Rev. Katie Jo Fuller Bielke (above right photo, far left) served as a student pastor there before getting a call from the Collinsville St. John UCC where she serves now. Flowers, history and food created a great celebration for all.

Ecclesiastical Council for Brett Palmer
One hundred percent of the delegates from the Illinois South Conference churches attending Brett (Carolyn) Palmer’s Ecclesiastical Council voted in favor of his preparedness to be ordained. There were no negative votes and no abstentions. The Church has spoken, “He is worthy. Let us ordain him.” Congratulations to Brett and Carolyn Palmer and the ministry in his future.

DuBois 6.0 Building Faith, Building Capacity, Building for the Next 60 Years
Oct. 2021-Dec. 2022
DuBois Center will turn 60 in 2022, marking the year we took ownership of the land. While the first 60 years have been great, she needs some maintenance and expansion to get her ready for the next 60.

This treasure is the heart of the Illinois South Conference, where thousands of campers have experienced God and creation over the past six decades. Some found their calling to ministry there. Others found summer after summer of fun and friendship. Think of the retreats, the worship, the secrets shared and the children’s laughter. So much life has occurred under the rustling leaves at DuBois Center. Now it’s time for us to prepare for the next 60 years, by improving what we have and getting ready for the future.

As of this edition, we have received $6,835 toward the total goal of $225,290. Keep checking this website to see how the thermometer fills up and send your donation to make the improvements possible. It’s our space to bring faith and appreciation of nature to ourselves and the next generations. Here is the information on all areas we will be updating so that you may share with your congregations and friends.

Hitz Memorial Home Tasting Bee
This year, the Hitz Home Auxiliary’s Tasting “B,” The Music of Christmas, will be on Fri, Dec 3, at 1 pm in the activity/dining room area of the Hitz Memorial Home. There will be tasty foods, a special program, quilt raffle, silent auction, and attendance prizes to be given away. Auxiliary members will provide the meats and some sides. Foods that are brought for tasting by various church groups and individuals are very much appreciated. Items for the silent auction would also be welcomed. The quilt raffle also includes several gift cards. The tickets for the drawing are $1 each or 6/$5 and can be purchased at the door or from members of the Auxiliary in your local churches. Get a group together or come alone to enjoy laughter, good food, and fellowship for a good cause. Proceeds will benefit the activity fund for the residents.

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 the Chaplain of Elmhurst University, H. Scott Matheney, at 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.

COVID-19 & The Topic Of The Day webcast will be presented by the Insurance Board on Nov 16 at 1 pm CST. It will address several important challenges facing employers due to the ongoing pandemic, including maintaining workplace safety and how they might choose to address vaccine mandates. The program will also look at some of the other important issues for employers leading into 2022 outside of the pandemic, including changes to disability and family/medical leave laws and training requirements. The presenter, Dean Rocco, Attorney, and Partner from Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP, is a Chair of the firm’s National Employment & Labor Practice Group and will share his expert insights about COVID-19 and the topics of the day.

Reaching out for help is not selfish. We’ll say it again because sometimes all the amazing caregivers out there need to be reminded. Reaching out for help is not selfish. If you don’t take care of yourself, you can’t take care of anyone else.

Being a caregiver is hard. The role comes with a lot of work and a lot of tough decisions. (And then there’s the added stress of doing all of this during the midst of a pandemic.) You lovingly cook meals, sort medication, give baths, clean houses, attend doctors’ appointments, and so much more…which is why an entire month has been designated to recognize this incredibly difficult job that you’ve taken on.

First established in 1997 by President Clinton to raise awareness about the toll that caregiving can take on family members, 2021 marks the 24th year of National Family Caregivers Month. According to the National Alliance for Caregiving, an estimated 65.7 million Americans serve as family caregivers for an ill or disabled relative.

St. John’s Community Care joins the entire country in honoring you and all that you do to care for your loved ones. They’re here to support you on this journey, a journey that you shouldn’t have to take alone. Read more for an overview of the caregiver resources St. John's Community Care offers.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: St. John's - Midway has 2 brass candelabras to donate. They have been replaced and are no longer being used. Each holds 7 taper candles. Contact their Church Office at 618-377-9288 if you are interested.

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.
Region 5
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. 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.

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 proceed will benefit the Grantfork UCC Cemetery.

Troy Friedens UCC will hold its Santa Fest 2021 on Dec 4 from 11 am - 2 pm in the church parking lot. Free admissions but donations accepted. Social distancing applies.

Region 7
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.

Region 8
Zion United Church of Christ in New Baden is hosting a Festival of Trees from Nov 18 - 20. Here is a flyer of all the events that are happening. Check out the link above for more information on other specific events happening during that time.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Music Coordinator
New Baden Zion UCC has an opening for a part-time Music Coordinator. Job duties include directing the adult choir, coordinating with organists and children’s choirs, selecting and leading music for services, assisting with copyright reporting, and other related responsibilities. A degree in worship arts, music, or equivalent training is required, along with experience as a choral singer and/or director and keyboard skills. For a full job description and salary info, contact Rodney Washburn at rodneywashburn1@gmail.com.

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.

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

Communications and Technology Coordinator
Columbia St. Paul UCC seeks to effectively communicate its work and ministry through inspired and creative leadership. They actively
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 email.

seek 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. Email a cover letter with salary requirements, resume and portfolio.

### Part-Time Music Leader

**Pinckneyville St Paul UCC**

is in search of a Part-Time Music Leader who works well with people. 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.

### 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.

### Youth Ministry Director

**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.

### 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.

### Minister of Visitation

**Belleville St. Paul United Church of Christ** 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

### Director of Faith Formation

**Belleville St. Paul UCC** seeks a Director of Faith Formation (18 hrs. per week). Job responsibilities:

- Plan and execute the church’s education program for all ages in collaboration with the Sr. Pastor and Christian Ed. Team
- Sustain and expand the youth group
- Assist in worship elements
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.

Assistant Church Organist/Musician

Grantfork UCC is looking for a musician to play the pipe organ and/or piano for their Sunday morning traditional worship service once or twice a month. The schedule will be coordinated with the church's music director, Connie Plocher. To express an interest, please contact Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul at 618-675-2595, or at grantforkucc@agtelco.com.

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

So we can better serve you, here is a list of your Conference staff and who you should contact, given your church’s needs:

- For the work of Conference teams and committees or search and call inquiries, contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org.
- For financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org.
- For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at Ischuepbach@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