

January 11, 2022



While folks in Kentucky and Tennessee were reeling from the early December tornados, another storm struck a few weeks later and hit some of the

same areas with massive flooding. FEMA has declared 17 counties in emergency and are still considering more. Several agencies were on-site during the first two weeks serving meals and providing food, removing debris, providing spiritual and emotional care, tarping homes and businesses, finding shelter and housing for displaced persons and helping wherever they could. Operation BBQ, Salvation Army, Trace Creek Baptist Church and others provided meals, parties and toys for the children on Christmas Day.



Although no UCC churches were affected, the Indiana/Kentucky UCC Conference is receiving donations to cover building materials for mission work groups that could begin later this spring and summer. Some ISC UCC churches recently donated gift cards for the storm victims through the Washington County Ministerial Alliance. At this time, donated goods are not needed – (same info and links as printed in the 12/21 WC issue) Cash is the best way to contribute to recovery from the December tornados. When writing a check or

[Prayer list for Jan 23-29, 2022](#)

Churches & Pastors

- Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC
- DuBois St. Mark's UCC, Pastor Tom (Marcia) Ellison

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Dr. Herbert and Bennie Schafale

People with Life Concerns

- Please pray for the family of **Elvera Nungesser (88)** who passed away at the Alhambra Care Center on January 9, 2022. She was the ISC Financial Secretary from 1979 – 2000 after the retirement of Betty Klaus. A private celebration of life will be held at the Grantfork UCC on January 19. Cards may be sent to her daughter, Lynn Morton, at 3261 Daiber Lane, Highland, IL 62249.
- Please pray for the family of **Rev. Lev (Linda) Reynolds III** as they mourn his death on January 2, 2022. Rev. Reynolds served as Interim Minister and on several ISC teams. A celebration of life is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, May 28, 2022 with more definite info later. Click [here](#) for a full obituary. Cards may be sent to Rev. Linda Reynolds, 2490 W Randolph St., St Charles MO 63301.
- 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.



making an [online](#) donation, designate it for Severe Storms 2021 – December Tornadoes. Donate now!

Another way to help is to assemble CWS Kits and Cleanup Buckets. The UCC offers \$250 matching grants. Click [here](#).

- Pray for those who are **hungry**.
- 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**.
- Please pray for the **people who are dealing with natural disaster recovery**.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Rev Jan Dashner (left photo - right) and Crisis Response Canine Maggie Mae (left photo - left) served last week in Mayfield, KY to offer support and comfort to those who were affected by the Dec 10 tornado. They were also supporting the responders that are on the ground bringing aid to this devastated area. Rev.

Dashner and Maggie Mae serve with NATIONAL Crisis Response Canines. Right photo shows more of the Crisis Response Canines.



Health & Human Service Sunday - January 30

Every year, the United Church of Christ designates a Sunday in January as the time to uplift the many gifts of the Health and Human Service Ministries across the church. **This year, Health and Human Service Sunday takes place on January 30, 2022.** Liturgical resources for observing Health and Human Service Sunday are now available on CHHSM's website or by clicking on the blue button below. This year's materials were composed by the Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry and include new elements such as an opening meditation for the body and a litany for collective care. Especially now, it is worth remembering that the word liturgy means "work of the people," and this special Sunday is a way to celebrate the healing work of our CHHSM members. To find out more or purchase some resources, click [here](#).

DuBois Center News

Do You Receive an Automatic IRA Distribution?

If you receive an automatic IRA distribution that you don't need for living expenses, perhaps from an inherited IRA, please consider donating it to the DuBois 6.0 capital campaign this year. We have already received close to \$39,000 of the \$225,290 needed to complete the 17 projects included in this campaign. The Oak Lodge air conditioning project is almost finished, and three other projects are just waiting on some materials and volunteers to finish them. The second round of projects needs to start soon, some of which includes work on the Deer Run shower house and lodge, moving the archery range and building a new bouldering wall. These projects will add tent camping capacity and programming activities to the 2022 summer camp season. Your donations will make a big difference in getting these done in the first quarter of the year.

If you would like to donate an IRA distribution to DuBois 6.0, please contact Matt Wagner with United Church Funds at matt.wagner@ucfunds.org for more information.



DuBois 6.0 - On the Move

DuBois Center will get a facelift in 2022. The current donations are at **\$38,472** because of generous donors. Thanks! We're on our way!

Here's what we're striving to do - Estimates as of Aug. 2021

- Oak Lodge Windows Replaced \$17,650
- Camp Office Windows Replaced \$4,500
- Oak Lodge Air Conditioning \$15,740
- Oak Lodge Basement Sealed and Dehumidifier Purchased \$6,000
- New Hillside Cottage Built \$77,000
- Lumber Shed Roof \$3,000
- Program Directors House Updates \$7,000
- Temporary Infirmary: To be reaccredited by the American Camping Association, we need a multi-bed infirmary temporarily in half of Roadside Cottage \$3,000
- Road Repairs \$18,500
- New Fish Hill Cabin on Rustic Side of Camp \$10,400
- New Archery Range and Bouldering Wall \$10,000
- Deep Water Solar Lake Aerator \$6,000
- Boat House Solar Power \$1,200
- Deer Run Lodge Repairs and Updates \$4,500
- Deer Run Shower House \$10,300
- New Hay Barn \$30,000
- Fence Painting \$500

How You Can Contribute

- **Sponsor** a project.
- **Share** your mandatory IRA distributions
- **Share Stock** or Bonds
- **Share Tax Refund**
- **Dinners**- Plan to attend two special Taste of DuBois Dinners in 2022
- **Sweat Equity**
- **Cash Online** at www.iscucc.org and www.DuBoisCenter.org.
- **Prayers**

DuBois 6.0 Capital Campaign Goal

\$225,290

Note: Project order will be determined by availability of materials and funds.

Contact United Church Funds at 212-729-2628 or matt.wagner@ucfunds.org to learn how to donate IRA distributions and stock to DuBois 6.0. Dates and more information on the Taste of DuBois dinners will be coming in early 2022.



An Invitation to Volunteer

Many of you have known me my whole life, but allow me to introduce myself. I'm Rylee Hodges-Stone and I grew up at DuBois Center. I'm now serving as Program Director and I've spent the off-season months reevaluating, revamping and creating programs. We're now offering updated versions of popular middle-school specialty camps for high school age campers, we're bringing some beloved camp themes back

out of retirement, and we're finding every way we can to better utilize our magnificent site with every activity.

Above is a picture of me at DuBois Center as a brand-new half-week camper.

I was granted special exception to attend camp a year earlier than my grade level would allow. I begged my pastor, the late Gretchen Sterrett of New Baden Zion UCC, to write a letter explaining that I was the oldest kid in my class, and that I was certainly "mature enough to go." She cut a deal with me: if I would work the chili and fish dinners to earn my camp scholarship, she'd get me in. I

kept up my end of the deal, serving lemonade and helping with dishes at what must have been ten thousand dinners, and she kept up her end and got me into my home, The DuBois Center, just in the nick of time.

From deal-cutting half-weeker to dedicated horse camper to barn assistant to coordinator and now to Program Director, I've never lost my drive to serve all the lemonade it takes to get the job done. In this new position of management, I've created a goal for my staff: to better utilize staff training time, with a clear focus on establishing relationships, creating a strong love for DuBois Center and learning how to work as a team. This time needs to be spent fully devoted to certifying our staff on the key skills that are required every day of summer session. It's crucial that we spend this limited time facilitating our staff's familiarization with the site, the equipment, the job and the team - and maintain the flexibility to adapt to our diverse staff's needs.

Even after this densely packed training ends, for seven weeks straight our staff members spend an average of 130 of the 168 hours in a week at the DuBois Center. This leaves less than 48 hours for all personal needs to be met between sessions - this is a huge ask of every summer staff member and we owe it to them to do all we can to set them up for success. Our staff deserves excellent support because they work hard to create excellent experiences for our campers: summer camp is often the best week of a camper's entire year.

2020 was not only our first year out of operation in decades, it also marked the departure of Shirley Asmussen, the long-serving director I had known as a camper. With all the chaos, it's no wonder that many tasks have piled up - and they have piled up higher than our staff can handle without your help. Our summer staff arrive ready to fully commit to facilitating a safe and fun experience for each and every DuBois Center camper - your assistance with these tasks in the coming months means directly supporting our staff's ability to keep their attention focused on the campers.

I am asking for your help. Volunteer assistance with site preparation is needed before we can open for the 2022 Summer Session.

I've scheduled a volunteer day and a volunteer retreat for the spring of 2022.

- April 23rd - Volunteer Day
- May 21st - 22nd - overnight Volunteer Retreat

All of the work can be done at an entry-level skill set, **no special expertise or tools necessary** - if you can push a broom, pull a weed, or dust a cobweb, we need your help! [Ready to pitch in? Click here](#)

I love the DuBois Center. I loved being a camper, and it means the world to me to be able to welcome new generations of campers, and even second and third generation campers back to our camp for fun, adventure, worship, and growth. We all need each other, and right now we need you. The DuBois Center is so unique among area camp facilities for its strong legacy of families, communities and congregations working together to "pay it forward" and keep our doors and arms open. I invite you to remind yourself why DuBois Center is a part of your life, to be in God's place and help set up another generation of great camper experiences.

Anyone that wants to help DuBois Center is welcome.



Best, DuBois Center Program Director, Rylee Hodges-Stone
A photo above right of Rylee & Dakota, ready to get to work!



Scholarships & Grants

The United Church of Christ has scholarships and grants available for a variety of purposes in three broad categories: Ministry Education Scholarships, Program Grants, and Leadership Development Scholarships. In addition to what is listed here, check with the Admissions Office at your educational institution to find out about additional scholarships that may be available. Click [here](#) to see the different options in all three categories.

UCC National Youth Event Conference for Leaders

On February 7-8, the national setting will offer a virtual conference for 100 youth ministers and leaders to reimagine youth ministry, National Youth Event, and other events for the future.

Registration can be completed [here](#).

Additionally, we are asking anyone who has regular contact with youth in the United Church of Christ to complete a short survey to provide additional insight to the Faith INFO team and national setting. You may access the survey [here](#).

Your responses and presence are greatly appreciated. For questions or additional information please reach out to Rev. Trayce Potter at pottert@ucc.org.

United Church Funds (UCF) Announced Open Application for the Helen and Richard Brown Endowment for Pastoral Scholarships

for the 2022-2023 academic year. The Brown Endowment derives from a generous gift received in the 1990s, designated to support pastoral ministry in the United Church of Christ (UCC). UCF serves as trustee of the endowment, helping to ensure funding for pastoral education and development. Since its inception, the initial gift of \$5 million now provides over \$300,000 annually to UCC Conferences, seminaries, and global partners, providing individual scholarships for seminarians, grants for continuing education for authorized ministers and support for seminarians in UCC/Disciples global partner churches. The endowment provides funding for students seeking a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree or equivalent. Potential Brown Scholars must demonstrate at least a year of active membership in a UCC church and maintain a GPA of at least 3.0. Eligible candidates can apply to become a Brown Scholar for the coming academic year by submitting an online application [here](#). The submission deadline is March 1.



New Programs at St. John's Community Care in January

The **Stress Busting 9-week series** will be on Mondays beginning on Jan. 17 from 10 am - 11:30 am. Caring for loved ones with dementia or Alzheimer's? You are not alone. We know caregiving can be stressful. This program will provide education and support, teach stress management techniques, help caregivers develop coping strategies. This program is available at no cost. Call 618-344-5008 to register.

The **Savvy Caregiver 6-week series** will be held on Thursdays beginning on Jan. 27 from 10 am - 12 pm. This workshop is taught by professional instructors using curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota. The workshop is for active caregivers of a family member or friend living at home with dementia. Caregivers learn to develop new strategies for caring for the person living with the disease as well as caring for themselves. These strategies and skills have been shown to decrease the stress of caregiving and increase well-being for both. No cost to attend. Call 618-344-5008 to register.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

2022 IRS Mileage Rate

Churches and Pastors, please note that the IRS reimbursable mileage rate for 2022 is 58.5¢ per mile.

Job Opportunity: Development Director

The **Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society**, a nationwide organization, is seeking a part-time development director to join our team. The director's primary objective will help move the Society closer to its financial goals by actively pursuing fundraising opportunities for the Society, including an annual appeal campaign to an established donor base, developing relationships between the Society and new potential donors, grant writing, and managing fundraising operations. The ideal candidate will be experienced in fundraising for faith-based non-profit organizations. Lastly, the Society seeks a consultant who is motivated, organized, and believes in the society's mission. Complete description [here](#).

Boundary Training 2022

As part of our clergy's covenant and standing with the ISC, clergy are required to attend Boundary Training every three years. Boundary Training dates in 2022 are set for Tuesday, January 18; Tuesday, March 22; and Tuesday, August 30 from 8:30 a.m. – Noon each day by Zoom.

Fee:

ISC Clergy - \$20 for retired pastors and \$25 for active pastors.

Non-ISC Clergy - \$25 for retired pastors and \$30 for active pastors.

Christy sent an email to clergy who are listed as needing boundary training in 2022. To register or pay by credit card, contact Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org with the following information: Name, phone number, email, church name/city, active or retired, ISC or non-ISC.

Postponed - Region 5

GUCC Instruments of Your Peace: 150 Years of Song and Service scheduled for Jan 23 has been postponed. Keep checking for future plans.

Alhambra Salem UCC will hold its 74th Sausage Supper on Sat, Jan 29 from 1 pm - 7 pm. This year it is drive through only. Menu includes homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes and gravy, green beans, applesauce. All meals are \$12. Meat sales - pre-order only due by Jan 25. Pick up is Sat, Jan 29 from 9 am - noon. Contact salemuccmeatsales@agtelco.com or 618-488-3216.

Region 9

Belleville Christ UCC will hold its 42nd Annual Wurstmart on Sunday, January 30 from 11 am. - 4 pm. It is drive thru or carry out only. All plates \$12. Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, applesauce and dessert.

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](#)

