At the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Illinois South Conference, it was announced that we would begin the discernment process of what it would mean if ISC would become a WISE Conference. WISE is an acronym that was created by the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network which stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged. The UCC Mental Health Network “works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership, and work of congregations.” Congregations that have gone through the process in our Conference and are recognized by the Mental Health Network as WISE congregations are: Grantfork UCC, Irvington Friedens UCC, Moro St. John’s UCC of Midway, and Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd. And now we will be entering a WISE process as a Conference.

The first part of this process was to choose a WISE Exploratory Team. Applications from pastors and lay leaders from the Conference were submitted and reviewed by the Executive Committee. It was decided that the members of the WISE Exploratory Team would be: Carolyn Catalano, Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul (spokesperson and team leader), Karen Gaines Brandi Hitzemann, Pastor Brett Palmer, Rev. Michelle Torigian, and Rev. Tarrah Vaupel. This seven-person team of both clergy and laity brings a wealth of experience and passion to the work to which they have been called. In the next six months this team will be prayerfully researching, collaborating, planning, imagining, and ultimately creating a WISE covenant and action plan that will

Prayer list for
Feb 27- March 5, 2022
Churches & Pastors

-Godfrey
Congregational Church, Rev. Richard (Sarah) McCreary

Retired Pastors
- Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee and Kevin Lee, Dupo, IL

People with Life Concerns
-Pray for Rev. Michelle (Aaron Brent Coleman) Torigian as she recovers from surgery. Rev. Torigian is the pastor and teacher for Belleville St. Paul UCC. Cards may be sent to her at 2716 Autumn Harvest Ln, Belleville, IL 62221.

-Please pray for the people of Quito, Ecuador as they manage the clean up of the damage of the flood and landslide. Ecuador Partnership has been a mission partner with ISC for over 20 years. We pray for strength and comfort for them all.

-Pray for Rev. Bill Causer, as he deals with some health issues. Cards may be sent to him at 11315 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.

-Pray for those recovering from natural disasters.
be presented to the pastors and delegates of the Illinois South Conference and voted on at this year’s Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 15 at St. John UCC in Collinsville. This team covets your prayers and support as they begin their work together. We believe our Conference can play a significant role in modeling welcome, inclusion, support, and engagement by offering the resources to our leaders in the Conference, our pastors, and our member churches to help to reduce the stigma of mental health and connect people who are living with mental health conditions in their communities, in their churches, in their families, and in their own lives. To learn more about the UCC Mental Health Network and the WISE process, please familiarize yourself with their website: https://www.mhn-ucc.org.

**The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference**...

Pictured on the stage of McKendree University are two of our ISC UCC Clergy, Rev. Dr. Donald Wagner, St. Paul’s UCC, Lebanon and Rev. Joan Mier, Concordia UCC, Belleville who participated in the installation of McKendree University’s chaplain, The Rev. Dr. Beverly L. Wilkes-Null; both clergy believe in the importance of ecumenical engagement. Rev. Don offered one of the prayers within the service for Rev. Dr. Wilkes-Nunn.

Mark your calendars for March 19, 2022, to attend **Day of Discipleship**. The 2022 theme is Leaders and Followers: Guiding the Church Forward. The ISC Conference Gatherings Team and staff have decided, based on the health and safety of our attendees and volunteers of the host church, to go virtual on Zoom for Day of Discipleship 2022. The information is valuable for the church, “leaders,” and “followers,” i.e., for everyone in the church to learn about conference-wide initiatives in 2022, roles and responsibilities of officers/leaders, good decision-making skills, honest/healthy communications, and a new ministry opportunity, Companionship Movement. Here is the plan for the day.

**Town Hall Meeting** on Conference Wide Initiatives:
1. An opportunity to hear how the WISE committee is doing
2. How the DuBois 6.0 program is coming along
3. How some of our other ministries are doing.

**Workshops:**
1. "Roles and Responsibilities of Officers" – Mimi Llamas
2. "Good financial practices" – Daryl Collins
3. "Healthy communication" – Rev. Lisa Hart
5. "Pathways to Promise: A Taste of Companionship" – Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul

Cost: $25/person; scholarships available for anyone – contact Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org for more information.

**Schedule:**
- 8:45 – 9:00 Gather on Zoom
- 9:00 – 9:30 – Opening & Update on ISC initiatives (WISE Conference update, DuBois 6.0, and Hunger Action Team updates)
- 9:40 – 10:25 – Workshop A (Your choice of the 5 offered)
- 10:35 – 11:20 – Workshop B (Your choice of the 5 offered)

-Pray for peace among nations.
We will gather for DOD on Zoom. The workshops will follow the opening time and will be through Zoom’s breakout rooms format. This is the same platform we used for last year’s DOD. People can choose the workshop they want to go to, or Christy will help move them to the correct workshop.

**NEW** Insurance Board announces the launch of a Legal Helpline through our partnership with the Association of Conference Attorneys (ACA) of the United Church of Christ. All Insurance Board participants can now access legal counsel that will provide a free legal consultation and referral service. Ministries will benefit from connecting with attorneys who have an intimate understanding of polity and how issues are processed in observance of free church traditions. Ministries can contact the Legal Helpline at 800-437-8830 (prompt #7) or email their inquiry to legalhelpline@insuranceboard.org. Please note the free consultation does not include contract reviews. Feel free to share the attached flyer with your Insurance Board policyholders.

**Coming Soon** Insurance Board will be launching the Legal Corner site accessible from Insurance Board’s website. Legal Corner will be the new home for the Legal Helpline in addition to sample forms and extensive HR tools. More information to follow!

One Great Hour of Sharing - March 27
The theme for the 2022 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is “Love Remains,” based on 1 Corinthians 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. These words were written to a church in turmoil to remind them what love looks like in community.

What does love look like in our UCC Community? Through your collective generosity, the United Church of Christ has worked with both domestic and international partners to provide food, water, medicines, education, disaster recovery resources and opportunities for sustainable development, bringing hope to places of despair. Your gifts to OGHS allow UCC to put love into action to make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities in crisis around the world. Sunday, March 27, 2022, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is the recommended date for the offering. Resources to help you promote the offering will be mailed to your churches beginning the week of February 21. And for your newsletters and worship planning purposes, resources are already available for download on the UCC website. You may also order additional copies of these materials from UCC Resources.

"His radiance is like sunlight; beams of light shine from his hand"
Habakkuk 3:4
Solar energy in our homes and churches is on the Justice & Mission Team's agenda, because we want to do two things:

- Help preserve God’s creation; and
- Help you save money

To that end, the team has resources that may interest you, but we need your help to identify:

- People who are currently using solar in their homes;
- Churches who are using or considering solar;
- Those who want to learn more about solar.

Contact Christy by March 8 at cpursell@iscucc.org to give us information about your use or interest in solar energy.

Deadline Approaching - UCC Yearbook Submissions
We are about one-third of the way to getting 100% of our churches submitting their information to National UCC concerning their churches' lives. Here is the MOST important reason for submitting your information...
When your search committee needs to create a church profile, or your church begins a capital campaign, or your church needs a loan for an important project, you can pull an 11-year report of your church’s information....attendance, finance and more. BUT only if you have submitted the information! You will thank us when that need becomes a reality.

For more information, contact Lynnette at lschuepbach@iscucc.org.

Important Deadline to Submit:
Submitting online - by midnight on March 2, 2022
Submitting to Lynnette to enter - by March 1, 2022.

About UCC Global H.O.P.E.
(Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment)
Part of the UCC's Wider Church Ministries, the Global H.O.P.E. team brings into close synergy Disaster Ministries, Refugee and Migration Ministries, Volunteer Engagement and Sustainable Development.


Josh Baird, Global H.O.P.E. Team Leader

The UCC Global H.O.P.E. team in January approved grants to:

- **First Congregational Church, Boulder, Colo.** - $3,000 to assist 13 low-income families connected to the church’s Family Learning Center who lost their housing in the December 30, 2021, wildfire.
- **Jackson County (Oregon) Community Long-Term Recovery Group** - $5,000 for training in support of the LTRG’s organizational restructuring.
- **Carlton Complex Long-Term Wildfire Recovery** for the Cold Springs and Pearl Hill Fires in Okanogan and Douglas counties, Wash. - $8,000 to rebuild eight homes and assist with LTRG operations expenses.
- **Disaster Leadership Team, Oregon** - $10,000 to support the team and its three mentors for four wildfires recovery groups.

[Here is a complete list of grants in 2021.](#) A log of 2022 grants will be added to the website soon.

**Active Global H.O.P.E. funding appeals**

- **UCC 2021 Severe Storms Appeal:** Includes Hurricane Ida and December tornadoes. Long-term recovery and rebuilding needs will be enormous. [Best way to help? Money.](#)
- **UCC COVID Relief Appeal:** In response to the growing COVID-19 crises facing many poorer countries and communities, UCC is seeking $150,000 for its COVID Relief Appeal for food, hygiene kits, personal protective equipment and other aid to the most vulnerable to reduce the virus’s spread.

**Key Links**

- Global H.O.P.E.
- 2021 Grants from Global H.O.P.E.
- Refugee and Migration Ministries
- [Afghan Resettlement Toolkit](#)
- [Refugee Emergency Updates](#)
- Disaster Ministries
- Conference Disaster Coordinators
- [CDC 20-Year History](#)
- Disaster Updates
- Recovering Hope
- [FEMA help for COVID funerals](#)
**Star Party – Next Friday March 4!**

Have you been dreaming of an opportunity to get out into nature and see the stars? Look no further than Friday, March 4th’s Green DuBois Star Gazing Party. We have star guides ready to point out the features of our night sky, hayrides, snacks, and a big camp bonfire. Everyone is welcome to join us from 6-9 for the event. We look forward to seeing you all at DuBois Center on March 4! Blessings - Hayley

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**Come breathe the fresh air at DuBois Center~**

March 4 - Star Party  
March 26-27 - Confirmation Retreat at DuBois  
April 1-3 - Father & Son Retreat  
April 9 - DuBois Center Open House  
April 15 - Stations of the Cross at DuBois Center  
April 22-24 - Wrangle & Ride  
April 23 - Volunteer Workday at DuBois Center  
April 29-May 1 - Women's Retreat - NEW  
May 13-14 - Photography Retreat - NEW  
May 15 - DuBois Center Open House  
May 21-22 - Volunteer Retreat

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**DuBois 6.0 - On the Move**

DuBois Center will get a facelift in 2022. The current donations are at $54,616 because of generous donors. Find out more.

**DuBois 6.0 Capital Campaign Goal** $225,290

**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**
- **Prayers**

  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.

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**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 over $54,000 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.

Seminary Sunday 2022, February 27

As we enter a third year of this global challenge to our capacity for hope and faithfulness, there is a class of seminarians whose experience has been shaped in ways that have equipped them to serve through whatever lies ahead with vocational resilience and crisis-tested commitment.

Your gift to CUE—to Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries—in 2022—is a gift that calls forth a future filled with the grace, wisdom and fortitude forged during these extraordinary times—A testament to the ways we have been changed forever and have remained steadfast in the formation of the leaders God is calling into the world today.

In preparation for Seminary Sunday, we have provided the video, which you might show in worship. The video highlights all six of our seminaries. Please know that by giving to CUE you are giving to Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries which encompass the midwest of the United States.

We can also easily connect you with the seminaries who can provide a student, faculty or staff person to speak or preach (virtually, directly to your congregation).

Tell us how we can help you prepare for the day!

Thank you for supporting the seminaries associated with CUE through a donation to your Conference. Your Conference in turn gives to CUE so that we can distribute the gifts equally among Chicago, United and Eden.

The Insurance Board presents a Webinar on Feb 28 at 1 pm CST, Protecting Your Ministry from Cybersecurity Threats. As reliance on technology continues to grow, cybersecurity threats are prevalent; ministries are especially susceptible to cybersecurity breeches in this enhanced virtual environment. This webcast will discuss the proper controls necessary to help mitigate cybersecurity threats and identify methods and tools that can help minimize potential exposures for ministries. The speaker, Abdullah Alkhulaiwi, Partner & Senior Cybersecurity Consultant, holds a Master’s Degree in Digital Science, and has multiple security certifications in ethical hacking, complex network design and information security assessments. Click here to register.

CHHSM Board Elects Jamar Doyle as CHHSM President & CEO

The UCC Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) Board Chair Abbreial P. Drane announced Feb. 15 that the board has elected Jamar Doyle to serve as the next president and CEO of CHHSM. Doyle will succeed Michael J. Readinger, who retires in April after 17 years with CHHSM, first as vice president and then, beginning in 2014, as President and CEO. Read more »

2022 Stewardship Theme Materials

Order stewardship materials for your congregation's 2022 stewardship campaign now. This year's theme, “From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving,” makes the connection between our experience of God and our generosity as disciples, and includes practical tools such as logos, commitment cards, bulletin inserts, and letters. The materials also provide resources for teaching stewardship
throughout the year. Campaign guidance and calendars will help you make the best use of these materials. Available as digital download or print materials. Special early bird pricing on download and bundle:

- Bundle download: $99.99 until April 1.
- Printed materials ship in May.
See link for standard download and package download specifics.

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services is expanding their Therapeutic Foster Care services. This expansion presents an opportunity for three identified foster youth, currently in residential care at Hoyleton, to live in community with qualified foster parents in a single-family home.

This program was created to address a service gap that exists in Illinois. The state has limited residential treatment opportunities and even fewer transition programs for youth in care who need additional support. Due to the limited options, youth are residing in Hoyleton’s residential treatment program longer than what is needed.

This is an amazing family bonding opportunity for both foster parents and youth. Foster parents will live in the newly renovated home while providing full-time care for 3 children. Foster parents will receive compensation covering all living expenses and respite time for foster parents is also provided.

Hoyleton is actively searching for interested foster parents. A minimum 2 years of experience fostering youth is preferred. Interested foster parents must not have other children in their care at this time. If this rewarding, yet challenging, opportunity is of interest to you or someone you know, we would love to speak with you.

For more information, contact Mindy Miller at 618-688-4756 or mmiller@hoyleton.org. To learn more about Hoyleton Youth and Family Services click here.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Troy Friedens UCC has a Riso EZ221U Copy machine (mimeograph printing) for sale $500 or best offer. Great condition. Please reach out to the office if you are interested at 618-667-6535.

The Illinois South Conference Confirmation Retreats are tools for enhancing youth ministry in local congregations and a time for personal spiritual renewal. They are designed as a supplement to the confirmation program of local churches and offer a unique opportunity for confirmation classes from across the Conference to bond within and between their groups.

**THEME:** “Gifted, Called, and Blessed” Exploring how God has uniquely gifted each of us.

**DATES:** Saturday, March 26 - Sunday, March 27, 2022
COVID PROTOCOLS: In accordance with the current Illinois South Conference protocols all chaperones and youth will be required to wear masks for all indoor gatherings and activities. Social distancing and good cleaning practices will be in place for this event.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE: Check-in at noon on Saturday. Program begins promptly at 1 pm. Eat lunch BEFORE arriving at DuBois Center. The retreat concludes on Sunday at noon and includes breakfast and lunch.

PARTICIPANTS: The Confirmation is for all youth enrolled in confirmation classes for the 2021-2022 program year and their adult advisors. Churches are asked to provide a minimum ratio of 1 adult (age 21 or above) per 7 youth in proportion to the male/female breakdown of their group.

COST: The cost is $65 for confirmands and chaperones.

RETREAT CAPACITY: Registration will be limited to the first 100 confirmands and chaperones with completed registration forms and fees.

Job Opportunity
Belleville St. Paul UCC Vacancy-Organ and Piano Position
Responsibilities - Areas of responsibilities include excellent organ and piano offerings for all services and accompaniment for weekly choir rehearsals and other musical ensembles as needed. In consultation with the senior pastor, serve as a resource for family weddings and funerals. Compensation will be appropriate to the weekly job responsibilities, background/experience, and professional preparation of the applicant.

POSITION PROFILE
- at the direction of the senior pastor and director of music, establish goals and a plan of organization to contribute to the growth and development of the church music program
- in consultation with the pastor and director of music ministry, select hymns and weekly service music
- be personally responsible for hiring substitutes for all absences including vacations and illnesses
- during weekly rehearsals, work in the preparation of music for worship services
- work/communicate with the facility manager to monitor maintenance/tuning and movement of piano and organ in the sanctuary.

Please send resume with three references to musicsearch@stpaulucc.org.

Lenten Devotional to Benefit DuBois Center & The Sojourner Truth House in Gary, IN
Rev. Dr. Don Wagner has graciously offered his Lenten Devotional for use in your churches. Beautiful photos by Fr. Jerry Schweitzer are included in the devotional. The devotional is free, but the Preface provides some information about making a donation for the devotional, which will be split between DuBois Center’s 6.0 Campaign and The Sojourner Truth House in Gary, IN. Click here to download and view the Journey to Easter by Rev. Dr. Don Wagner, pastor and teacher for Lebanon St. Paul UCC. You can also find it on the ISC website here.

2022 Hunger and Health Illinois Regional Conference
The University of Illinois Extension and SNAP Education staff are excited to announce the first Hunger and Health Illinois Conference. Two regional conferences will be held on March 9, 2022, at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby, IL, and March 17, 2022, at the Salvation Army in Springfield, IL from 10 am - 3:30 pm on both days. An optional pre-conference food handler's training will be from 8 am - 10 am. The cost for the event is $10 per person and will provide a noon meal. Fee waivers are available.
Registration opens on February 1, 2022. Click here for a flyer. Contact: kaitlyns@illinois.edu.
Region 4 - Godfrey Evangelical UCC will hold a Drive-Thru Only Lenten Fish Fry on six Fridays from 4 pm - 7 pm (March 4 - April 8) Menu includes whitefish, catfish fritters or buffalo ($6 each), baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, green beans ($2 each) or chips ($1), or hot dogs ($2), soda or bottled water ($1 each). All proceeds benefit our summer youth mission trip to Woonsocket, Rhode Island on July 14-24, 2022. Contact Tim Sandifer at 618-447-3089.

Region 5 - Hamel Immanuel UCC will hold its drive thru/carry out Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 20 from 11:30 am - 4:30 pm at the church (1-1/2 miles south of Hamel). Menu includes chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, slaw and applesauce. $11 per meal. Quilt and TV raffle.

Marine UCC will hold an All-You-Can-Eat Fried Chicken Dinner on Sun, March 6 from 11 am - 3 pm at the Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Carry-outs available. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned green beans, yellow corn, dinner salad, bread, tea and coffee. Dessert available for purchase. Adults $10; Children 2 - 12 $5.50; Children under 2 FREE.

On Sunday, March 13, 2022, Troy Friedens UCC will host its Annual Sausage & Kraut Dinner - DRIVE-THRU ONLY - from 11:30 am until 5:30 pm. The menu includes grilled pork sausage, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, & dessert. (No substitutions, items available while they last) Cost $12. No Bulk Sausage will be sold until the end of the event. Contact the office at 618-667-6535 or friedens@friedensucc-troy.org.

Region 8 - St. John UCC in Trenton will have its drive-thru-only for chili and beef vegetable soup on Sat, Feb 26 from 12 pm to 3 pm (or until the chili and soup are gone). Price is $10 per quart. Enter the drive thru on the west end of the alley by the Shell Station.

Region 9 - Belleville Concordia UCC will hold a Church Chili Challenge on Feb 26 from 11 am - 3 pm. Eat-in or Carry-out. $5 for Chili samples - eat-in only; $3 for Hot Dog/Chili Dog; $8 - Combo - Hot Dog & 16 oz. Chili; Voting will be done by free-will offering. 50% of proceeds will go to the Millstadt Fire Department.

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.

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