



A Pastor's Viewpoint

In the book of John, chapters 12-17, as Jesus is talking to his disciples about his leaving them, he offers two gifts for their journey. First, he offers the Holy Spirit as their Advocate. They will not be left to their own knowledge or wits. Thomas says, "Lord, we don't know the way." Second, Jesus offers Peace.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives."

Pontius Pilate asked Jesus if he was a King. Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God. A crown of thorns was on his head, and a sign hung over him as he was crucified, "King of the Jews." It seems to me that another counter to the Roman Kingdom was this claim "my peace I give you." If there was only one King and one Kingdom, then there can only be one peace, Pax Romana, the peace of Rome. This is the peace of power, coercion, and fear. Jesus is clear about his peace. "I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Our default setting is chaos and sin. The First Commandment is "you shall have no other gods before me." We are drawn to the gods of lies and anger and conclusions of the world.

Peace is often thought of as the absence of something, non-war, or non-noise. Jesus gives active peace. Jesus expects his disciples and us to be about peace. He is the Prince of Peace. We proclaim Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love at Advent. At Jesus' birth, the angels proclaim, "peace among those whom God favors." When he returns to the disciples after his resurrection, amidst memories of death, fear, confusion, exhaustion, and betrayal, he greets them, "Peace be with you."

Blessings,
 Rev. Jeffrey Schwab,
 Pastor & Teacher for
 Okawville St. Peter's
 UCC



Prayer list for June 12-18, 2022 Church & Pastors

-New Hanover
 Zoar UCC, Rev.
 R.J. (Lisa)
 Morgan (right)



Retired Pastors

- Rev. Robert Tripp, Effingham, IL
 -Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver,
 Columbia, IL

People with Life Concerns

-Prayers of celebration for **Pastor Tim (Shea) Powers-Reed** as he received a Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary on May 20. Pastor Powers-Reed is currently serving as Pastor & Teacher for Belleville Trinity UCC. Cards may be sent to him at 3515 Parc Chateau Ln, Florissant, MO 63033.

-Pray for **Rev. Gus (Sue) Kuether** as he heals from surgery. Rev. Kuether is a retired ISC pastor who served on many ISC teams and committees. Send cards to him at 536 Pebble Brook Ln, Belleville IL 62221.

-Keep **Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer** in your prayers as he recovers from surgery. Cards may be sent to him at 11315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

-Pray for **peace** in the world.

-Pray for all fathers on

Father's Day, June 19, 2022.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Waterloo St. Paul UCC's VBS Mission was to collect food items for the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service's "Free Summer Lunch Program" for children 18 years-old and younger. This year, the VBS Mission collected over 400 food items. Last year, over 8,000 lunches were served to needy youths in Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, Hecker, and Prairie

Du Rocher. Congratulations for your service to those in need. Photo above left shows the women of St. Paul UCC who helped to organize the donations.



The members of **Hookdale St. Peter UCC** observed Rural Life Sunday on May 22. Attendees were asked to bring seeds to worship. After blessing them as God's sacred seeds, the congregation created a mandala, representing God's creation.

Photo right is the congregation outside the church, and left is the mandala made of seeds blessed in the service.



In a spirit of celebration,
The St. Louis Association of the United Church of Christ
in covenant with
Christ Church, United Church of Christ in St. Louis, MO
Invite you to the Service of Installation for
Rev. Monty Jackson, as Pastor and Teacher, on
Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 3:00 pm
Christ Church, UCC, 2200 Bellevue Ave, Maplewood, MO 63143

Clergy who wish to participate in the opening processional are invited to wear their robe and their favorite stole. Clergy are asked to arrive by 2:45 pm and gather in the office behind the stage. The service will be streamed via YouTube Live. A reception will be held following the service. Masks are required.

Online Event Celebrates Juneteenth and Honors People's 'Hidden Histories'

by UCC Staff Reports | published on May 31, 2022

Stories told by people descended from Africa, the cradle of civilization, will be featured in a live United Church of Christ webinar marking the coming Juneteenth holiday.

"Juneteenth: Revealing Hidden Histories" will take place via Zoom on Thursday, June 17, at noon. It's free, but people should register [here](#) for the online event. The U.S. federal holiday, [Juneteenth National Independence Day](#), is Monday, June 20. It commemorates June 19, 1865, the day that Union Army Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Tex., and told enslaved people of their emancipation. That was more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) on Jan. 1, 1863.

Remembering that day "acknowledges God's sacred people of African descent," said the Rev. Velda Love, UCC minister of racial justice and leader of Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice. Hearing real stories from those people, she said, is a way to counteract white supremacist "efforts to suppress the truth of our history." Read [more](#).



The Marine UCC Trivia Night will be held on Sat, June 11 at Marine UCC. All profits will go to Hoyleton Youth and Family Services. Doors open at 6:30 pm with games beginning at 7 pm. Cost is \$12 per person with up to 8 players per table or \$96 per table. Prizes will go to the top two teams and door prizes presented. For reservations, contact 618-887-4465. If after hours, leave your name, phone number, and the number of people attending the event.

DuBois Center News

Donate to DuBois Center's Scholarship Fund

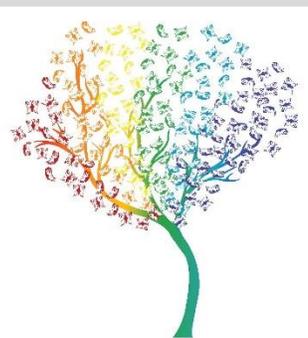
Each year, DuBois Center serves hundreds of campers who are both part of our Illinois

South Conference churches and our area neighbors. For some, attending camp would not be possible without the generous gift of a camp scholarship. Each week, campers enjoy countless activities including horseback riding, water mat play while swimming, gaga ball games, campfire cook-outs, and creek walks. They also have a chance to step away into nature, form lifelong friendships, and experience faith formation in a lasting and fun way. Simply put, camp changes lives through radical acceptance, risk-taking in a safe environment, and the chance to step away from busy lives, sports schedules, and all of the things that often distract our attention. Consider supporting the transformative power of camp this summer by donating to our scholarship fund. This allows us to continue to provide this needed space to our neighbors. You can mail checks to the office or consider an [online](#) donation. All funds designated to our scholarship fund will help us provide the camp experience to those who may not be able to experience it this summer otherwise.

DuBois 6.0 Campaign Update - We are approaching \$174,000 for a total donated as of this publication. We thank everyone for being a part of this fantastic venture to build faith, capacity, and opportunities for the next 60 years.

YOU can support DuBois 6.0!

- Mascoutah St. John UCC's Happy Quilters conducted a quilt raffle campaign, raffling off a quilt "All Things Seuss." It was won by Gail Spicer of Trenton. The campaign raised \$2,129 and St. John UCC in Mascoutah matched dollar for dollar. Kudos for such creative thinking. (Their donation is NOT included in the total above.)
- How has your church or organization done creative fundraising? We'd like to hear your story. Send to lschuepbach@iscucc.org so we can share with the Conference.



Our 7th Rainbow Camp will be Saturday, August 13 from 9 am to 7 pm. This year, we're bringing back Rainbow Camp Plus, the optional overnight stay in Hickory Lodge on Friday night, August 12, which will start at 5 pm. We'll have all your favorite camp activities, including horseback riding, water games, canoeing, archery, fishing, crafts, and a whole lot more. Rainbow Camp is for Queer singles, couples and families, and our straight allies. Go to www.DuBoisCenter.org to register. Bring a friend and come join the fun! Click [here](#) for a flyer.



UCC Disaster Ministries is collaborating with our Partner Agency, Brethren Disaster Ministries-Rebuild in Waverly, Tennessee.

There was a cancellation for the week of June 26 - July 2 and they are pleading for our help for volunteers during that week. They can accommodate up to 14 volunteers. More information can be found at brethren.org. If you and/or your group are interested in that week or any other time, please contact Kim Gingerich, Program Assistant, at kgingerich@brethren.org or call her at 717-586-1874. The town of Waverly, Tennessee, was heavily damaged by a storm on August 21, 2021. Hundreds of homes were damaged, and 21 persons died as a result of that storm.



OUR BACK BAY MISSION VISITS
By Mark & Bonnie Westcott, Volunteers from Highland, IL,



I've been coming to Back Bay Mission for eight years and Bonnie has joined me the last six years. My first two years were with the (Evangelical) UCC Church group from Highland. The last six years we have been joining other churches for our weekly mission trip.

The week we work for BBM is very rewarding for us. We always tell people that we leave with more than we give because working here changes you as you help people fix their homes. And the friends we have made over the years are very special to us. Because we have worked with so many different churches, our friend base has grown from many places in the United States.

These last four years we've been coming in mid-January for our mission trip and then we rent a condo and stay for six weeks and volunteer around the Gulf Coast. We volunteer at Loaves and Fishes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. We serve the homeless breakfast and lunch. On Thursdays, we volunteer at Feed My Sheep which is an outreach mission of First United Methodist Church of Gulfport. This is our home church while we are here on the coast. When we aren't volunteering, we take day trips around the area. We've been to Gulf Shores, Alabama, and Pensacola, Florida, and Laurel, Mississippi, plus up and down the coast around the Biloxi area. We love our time there and look forward to our trip every year; we have already booked our trip for 2023. **This year is a special year for Back Bay Mission because they are celebrating the 100th anniversary that BBM started on the coast.** The faces have changed and the work changes all of the time, but BBM has survived. Most of the time BBM works on lower income houses, and sometimes they've worked on recovery helping people after hurricanes that have hit the coast. We have found it so rewarding to be a part of the first 100 years, and excited to be a part of the next 100 years!

St. John's Community Care - Family Caregiver Free Conference

Surviving Caregiving Conference offers the opportunity to family caregivers to learn about resources and techniques to help them on their caregiving journey on Sat, June 11 from 8:00 am-12:30 pm at Collinsville St. John UCC Faith Hall. This free conference is for unpaid family caregivers of older adults. Complimentary breakfast and lunch gift card are included. Complimentary care is available at St. John's Community Care Adult Day Center during the

conference hours. Space is limited, and preregistration is required. 618-222-2561. This year's featured topics and keynote speakers:

- **Legal & Financial Issues** presented by Heidi Dodd, Partner with Harter, Larson & Dodd
- **Improving Function & Safety in the Home** presented by Adaptive Equipment Corner, Cindy Hardin-Weiss, MS/PT & Christina Hardin-Weiss, MS CCC/SLP
- **Understanding Behavior and Learning to be with People Living with Dementia** - presented by · Leslie Pedtke, MHA, LNHA
- **Dementia Resources & Coping - Helping You Age Well, Your Way** – AgeSmart, Hospice of Southern Illinois & St. John's Community Care

ONA Webinar Sale

During Pride month, three of our most popular webinars are on sale. For just \$35, an unlimited number of members of your church can participate from their own computers or devices. ONA 101 and ONA and the Bible are for congregations taking their first steps towards, or just curious about, an Open and Affirming Covenant. Bending Gender is for both ONA and not-yet ONA churches: with transgender and nonbinary Americans under attack in many states, it's time for congregations to understand how to welcome trans and nonbinary seekers into their congregations.

ONA 101 – How an ONA Journey Can Revive Your Church

Tuesday, June 21, 6 pm CDT

This webinar explores how and why congregations can become ONA—in ways that do not divide but unite the church. Applying the basic ONA principles of “graceful engagement” and “covenant,” ONA 101 has helped hundreds of congregations successfully navigate through an ONA process. Register [here](#).

ONA and the Bible I- How Scripture Can Open Doors to an ONA Commitment

Thursday, June 23, 6 pm CDT

We'll examine the seven texts that are commonly used to condemn same-sex relationships, but these few verses shouldn't control your church's conversation about ONA. How can biblical values of covenant, relationship and discipleship be foundational for a successful ONA process? Churches adopt ONA covenants not in spite of, but because of the Bible. This webinar is also valuable for members of existing ONA churches who want to know the biblical basis of their congregation's welcome and support for LGBTQ+ neighbors. Register [here](#).

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Job Opportunities - St. John's Community Care is in search for a Director of Development, Marketing & Communications. A Bachelor's Degree in Marketing is preferred; at minimum, 4 years of experience in a related role in a nonprofit environment and skills in photography and video skills are a must. It is a salaried position working M-F 8:30-5:00 pm with a half hour lunch each day; must be flexible to accommodate after hours meetings and events. Starting wage at \$40,000/year, negotiable commensurate with experience. Click [here](#) for more information. Apply to cstewart@stjohnscc.org with resume and cover letter.

Open Positions at Troy Friedens UCC

- **Cemetery Sexton**
- **Nursery Attendant**
- **Director of Faith Formation**

If interested, call 618-667-6535 or email friedens@friedensucc-troy.org

Belleville St. Paul UCC Vacancy-Organ and Piano Position

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

Music Director at Evangelical UCC in Highland - EvUCC in Highland is looking for a Music Director who will be responsible for overseeing the directing, planning, and program development of the music 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. The successful candidate will plan and lead relevant, meaningful, and engaging weekly worship music experiences. Contact 618-654-7459 or office@evucc.org for additional information.

Region 8 - New Baden Zion UCC will hold its BBQ on Sat, June 11 from 11 am until it is gone at the church. All proceeds will go toward the DuBois 6.0 campaign.

Vacation Bible Schools

June 13-16; 9 am - Noon; Dupou Christ UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*

June 19-; 6 pm - 8 pm; Granite City St. John UCC; *Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor*

June 20-24; 8:45 am - Noon; Mascoutah St. John UCC; *Monumental*

June 24 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm and June 25 9 am - 11:30 am; Belleville Concordia UCC; *HayDay*

June 25; 9 am - 3:30 pm; Co-hosts Nashville St. Paul's UCC & Plum Hill St. John's UCC at Nashville St. Paul UCC; *Camp Out - Getting S'more of Jesus*

June 26 (10 am), June 28-30; 6 pm - 8 pm; New Hanover Zoar UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*

June 27-30; 6 pm - 8 pm; Belleville St. Paul UCC & Belleville Trinity UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*

June 27-30; 9 am - 11 am; Staunton St. Paul UCC; *Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness*

June 28-30; 9 am - Noon; Lebanon St. Paul UCC hosted at First UMC, 603 W. St. Louis St., Lebanon; *HayDay*

July 5-8; 5:30 pm - 8 pm (dinner & snack); Centralia St. Peter UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*

July 11-15; 9 am - Noon; Collinsville St. John UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*

July 11-15; 6 pm - 8 pm; Red Bud St. Peter UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*

July 12; 9 am - 3 pm; St. Jacob UCC; *Making a Big Splash with Jesus*

July 18-21; 6:30 pm - 8 pm; New Athens St. John UCC; *Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God*

July 18-22; 9 am - noon; Fieldon UCC

July 24-28; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC

July 25-29; 9 am - 11:30 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Rocky Railway*

Aug 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept 4, 11; 9:15 am - 10:00 am; Alhambra Salem UCC, *SonHarvest County Fair*

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

Please call before coming to the Conference Office or make an appointment with a staff member using the emails below.

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](#)

