



June 21, 2022



A Pastor's Viewpoint - Sheer Silence

"He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord

was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire, a sound of sheer silence." 1 Kings 19:11-12 (NRSV)

The sound of sheer silence. Silence is the complete absence of sound. The complete absence of sound is something that few of us are able to experience. The human condition is to go full steam ahead from the time we get up in the morning until the time we collapse in bed at night. The demands of life get in the way of experiencing any type of quiet time to relax and recharge.

In our hectic, fast paced lives, we must learn to slow down. Slowing down is good for our mental health by helping us eliminate some of the stress in our lives. While it can't completely eliminate stress, it can significantly lower emotional tension. By slowing down, our bodies feel the emotions we are experiencing and interprets them. In doing so, we can process our emotions and allow our minds to guide us to a healthy response.

I love to experience God's creation in nature. A walk in nature soothes my soul as I listen to birds singing, frogs croaking, and bumble bees buzzing. Add the sunshine peeking through the leaves of an oak tree standing tall on the bank of a lake, and I can literally feel my blood pressure go down.

Growing up in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, I was only a short drive away from either the majestic mountains or the sandy beaches of the Outer Banks. It is in experiencing the outdoors that I find God.

I feel Illinois South Conference offers a perfect place for slowing down, experiencing nature and finding

Prayer list for June 26-July 2, 2022 Church & Pastors

-Okawville St. Paul UCC
(right)



-Okawville St. Peter's
UCC, Rev. Jeffrey
(Sara) Schwab (left)

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Earl and Johanna
Crecelius, Freeburg, IL

People with Life Concerns

-Keep **Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC
Conference Minister**, in your
prayers as she is on an
abbreviated Sabbatical. Please
wait to send emails to her until her
return on July 25. Instead, contact
Christy Pursell at

cpursell@iscucc.org

-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna
Langdoc** in your prayers as
Lelynna deals with some health
issues. Cards can be sent to her
at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122,
Clermont, FL 34714.

-Pray for **Rev. Gus (Sue) Kuether**
as he heals. Rev. Kuether is a
retired ISC pastor who served on
many ISC teams and committees.
Cards may be sent to 536 Pebble
Brook Ln, Belleville IL 62221.

-Keep **Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer** in
your prayers. Rev. Causer has
served several churches in ISC.

God in the DuBois Center. I was blessed to have experienced the DuBois Center during last year's Fall Festival. It was a beautiful fall afternoon with the

Cards may be sent to 11315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.
-Pray for **Peace**.

sun pouring in through the trees surrounding the lake. This reminded me of North Carolina. I was immediately at peace.

When I am experiencing God's creation, I often think of Wendell Berry's poem:

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

God slowed down and rested after creating the third planet from the sun, and we should too. God was not found in the wind, in the earthquake or in the fire, but in the sheer silence. I pray that we slow down, experience nature, and find our Still Speaking God in the sheer silence. Grace and peace, Rev. Jeff McCarn, Pastor and Teacher for Waterloo St. Paul UCC

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Marine UCC runs a free lunch program Monday to Friday from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Attendees do not need to be from the Marine area. No need to register and no pre-qualification is necessary. Anyone and everyone are invited. Thanks for helping to feed the people.

Boundary Training - As part of clergy's covenant and standing with the ISC, they are required to attend Boundary Training every three years. Church leaders may also register if they choose to. The final ISC Boundary Training of the year will take place on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, via Zoom from 8:30 am - Noon. This training will be for active and retired clergy as well as interested church leaders. If interested in attending, contact Christy at cpursell@iscucc.org. She will then provide the meeting link and ID. Fees for the training are \$20 for retired ISC pastors and \$25 for active ISC pastors and/or church leaders. Fees for non-ISC pastor (those with standing outside of ISC) are \$25 for retired pastors and \$30 for active pastors. To register/pay, send a check payable to Illinois South Conference and noted for Boundary Training to 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249 or call Christy at 618-420-2608 to make a payment by credit card.

Did you know? - The Justice and Mission Team Answers

Installing solar panels will not raise your Illinois property taxes. Call Illinois South Conference at 618-654 2125 to be directed to a Justice and Mission representative or click [here](#) for more information.

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

 DuBois Center News



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.

DuBois 6.0 Campaign Update

We are approaching **\$185,000** for a total donation as of this edition. There are several projects that have been completed. But since camp is in full swing, some projects have been funded but not completed so as not to interfere with the kids at camp.

Here are the projects that are completely finished:

- Oak Lodge HVAC
- Oak Lodge windows
- Office windows
- Rustic Cabin
- Program Director's House Improvements

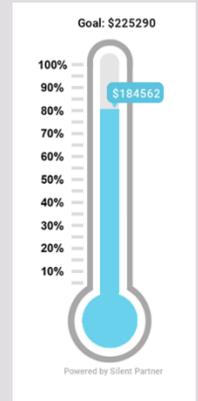
Here are projects that have been funded, but not completed yet:

- Deep water solar lake aerator
- Boat house solar power
- Fence painted

If you are looking for one of the larger projects to add your funds to as a church or organization, you may want to choose from these. Or check out the original [list](#) for some smaller projects to fit your group.

- New hay barn (estimated at \$30,000)
- Road repair (estimated at \$18,500)
- Hillside Cottage Build (estimated at \$77,000)

We thank everyone for being a part of this fantastic venture to build faith, capacity, and opportunities for the next 60 years.



Some Kids Still Want to Come to Camp - Donate to the DuBois Center 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.



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services Golf Classic '22

Have fun playing golf with your friends and support the Hoyleton Youth & Family Services on **Friday, September 16 at Tamarack Golf Course**, 800 Tamarack Lane in Shiloh. Many sponsorship opportunities if you can't take the day away from work. \$100 per person/\$400 per team. Register online; call 618-688-4742; or email lselden@hoyleton.org.

Back Bay Mission Celebrates 100 Years with Capital Campaign - Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, has been a UCC organization since 1922. This year they celebrate their 100th year anniversary of serving the coast by helping low-income families fix their homes, help feed the homeless, establish places for them to live and get showers, and counseling to help them get back on their feet and into the work force. They have also helped with hurricane recovery from Camille, and Katrina and will continue to help if any new storms hit the coast.

Back Bay Mission (BBM) is celebrating its 100-year anniversary with a capital campaign of 3.5 million. This money will help with updating current buildings and computer systems, initiate some new counselling programs, add more staff, and build tiny homes for the homeless while in transition to their own homes. It will also put other projects into place for the future.

Mark & Bonnie Westcott from Highland, Illinois, and advocates for Back Bay Mission, would love to come to your church for a mission moment during worship services or meet with you in a small group to share the future of BBM. You can also look at the BBM website for further information or to donate to this great organization. Click [here](#). If you want more information, email Mark and Bonnie at blmwestcott@gmail.com.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Job Opportunities - 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

Music Director at Evangelical UCC in Highland - 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.

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.

Vacation Bible Schools

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 Rev. Shana Johnson is on an abbreviated sabbatical until July 25. Please send emails after that date.

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](#)

