



**National UCC Highlights**  
**DuBois Center**  
**Southern Illinois camp thriving, growing with capital campaign**

by Connie Larkman | published on Nov 16, 2022

At a time when a number of church camps are closing or being sold, [DuBois Center](#) is expanding. In fact, the [Illinois South Conference](#) camp in Dubois, Illinois, just ceremoniously broke ground on a new building. “One of the reasons we are building that cabin is that we are a year-round facility,” said the Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister, referring to the fifth cabin the Center is adding to its “Main Camp” village. The facility, which hosts youth summer camps, family retreats and other programming, is in the midst of a major upgrade.

**Ecological care, increased capacity**

Hillside Cottage will be the first addition of its kind in more than 50 years, thanks to ongoing church, group and private donations, part of a 15-month capital campaign called [DuBois 6.0](#), which celebrates 60 years of the land being gifted to the UCC Conference by the Illinois Central Railroad.

“With the launch of our capital campaign last year, we have had an abundance of people who have given their time, efforts and financial support,” said Rylee Bernhardt, the Center’s program director, referring to volunteers young and old from Conference congregations. “Time and time again, even under these extreme (pandemic) circumstances, DuBois Center proves to be a place people want to invest in.” The cottage, which will be ADA-compliant and solar-powered, will be the first completely “off grid” building at camp, because, as Johnson said, “we are increasingly partnering with organizations that have ecological care as a core value.

This fall, we are working with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and some area school districts through a program called Nature’s Classroom. We need more capacity.” Hillside Cottage, which should be ready to occupy by

Prayer list for  
Nov 27 - Dec 3,  
2022

**Church & Pastors**

-Fairview Heights St. John UCC,  
Rev. Rosemary Captain (right)



-Farina Friedens UCC, Dr. Jerry (Cathy) Gesell, Sr. (left)

**Retired Pastor**

-Rev. Russell and Doris Miller,  
Metropolis, IL

People with  
Life Concerns

-Pray for **Rev. Karla (Rev. Charles Preston) Frost** as she recovers from unexpected surgery. Rev. Frost is the Pastor and Teacher for Granite City St. John UCC. Cards may be sent to her at 2901 A Nameoki Rd, Granite City, IL 62040.

**-Pray for the people who were killed or injured in the shooting in Colorado Springs and their families.** We pray for these lives which have been irretrievably lost or traumatized by the rising tide of hatred in America. Pray for an atmosphere of love to return to all lives.

-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna deals with some memory loss. Good news...Jim reported

summer 2024, is just one of 17 planned maintenance and expansion projects. Others ranged from paint and upgrades to solar projects, lake aeration, and a new hay barn.

### Fundraising for stretch goal

The capital campaign, said Jill Baker, DuBois 6.0 chair and Illinois South Conference moderator, kicked off last fall with a goal just short of a half million dollars. "Our 15-month campaign met its initial \$225,290 goal in under 10 months," she said. "We now have a 'stretch' goal of \$300,000 to include other projects beyond the original 17."

The fundraiser, which ends in December, aims to invest money in expanding the outdoor ministry center's ability to host new groups. [Read more...](#)

that he is still in remission. Cards can be sent to them at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.

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

Cards may be sent to 11315 N Presley Ln, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

--Pray for the individuals and families who are grieving the injury and loss of victims of the recent school shooting in St. Louis.



### Search for Executive Director of DuBois Center

Are you a people person who also has a deep love of creation? Do you possess strong organizational and interpersonal skills? Are you someone with abundant initiative and enthusiasm? If so, you are the person we are looking for to be the Executive Director of DuBois Center.

The Executive Director of DuBois Center is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of DuBois Center as well as staff recruitment and management, ensuring the health and safety of all campers and guests, and developing and sustaining partnerships to grow camping and retreat activities. The Executive Director of DuBois Center will serve in conjunction with the members of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ, which seeks to do the work of Christ on earth through our shared missions of healing, mercy, and justice and which rely on the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort, challenge, empower, and bind all God's people in a loving, covenantal relationship.

To review the job description, expectations and compensation, please click [here](#). To apply, send your statement of interest and resume to [DuBoisCenterJobs@gmail.com](mailto:DuBoisCenterJobs@gmail.com). Preference will be given to those who apply before November 30, 2022.

### Download the free Advent Prayers Toolkit for Revised Common Lectionary (Year C).

This resource was created with online and streaming worship in mind and includes:

- a sample promotional calendar
- theme graphics
- weekly social media graphics
- weekly Advent video prayers on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love for use in worship and social media



Prayers are written and recorded by UCC clergy. The collection includes:

- weekly prayer videos
- weekly Bible verse graphics for Year C
- sample promotional calendar (the calendar notes the dates for the 2021 Advent season, but the timeline can be repurposed for any year).

This product is a digital download. The download link will be on the checkout confirmation page and emailed to you. Nothing will be shipped.



**The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...  
The Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Along with St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

Invites all members, friends, and clergy of  
the ISC Congregations to

The Installation of **Reverend Andrew Lovins**  
As Pastor at St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
7 North Belleville Street, Freeburg, IL 62243  
(618-539-3262)

**Sunday, November 27, 2022, at 3 pm Installation**

This installation will be in-person. Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles. Dessert reception will be served after the installation service.

**Getting Started with Messy Church**

On Jan 21, 2023, the first Training Event for Messy Church will be presented at Waterloo St. Paul UCC from 9 am to 3 pm (lunch is included). Click [here](#) for registration, pricing, & further information. Click here for a flyer.

**POSTPONED!**

The installation service for Rev. Brett Palmer at Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa on December 11 at 3 pm has been postponed until 2023.



**Enhance The Work of Your Church: Preserve Church Finances and the Earth**

Come hear Rev. Wade Halva, Southern Illinois Outreach Coordinator for Faith in Place, present an educational program on December 1 at the Highland Evangelical UCC at 6:30 pm. He will discuss how our churches can enhance their work by saving money on energy while protecting the

environment.

In addition to working for Faith in Place, Rev. Halva pastors the First Presbyterian Church in Marion, Illinois, where he and his wife, Rev. Laurie Fields live. Rev. Fields pastors the First Presbyterian church in Harrisburg, Illinois. Rev. Halva has been in ministry in southern Illinois for most of the last two decades.

Rev. Halva has broad knowledge of both the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act of 2021 that allows for churches to make all of their energy needs and of the recent Inflation Reduction Act that allows churches to receive cash rebates of 30% on their solar systems. These rebates are good for the next 10 years so churches may include such opportunities in their annual or 5-year plans.

Rev. Halva said, "I appreciate the idea that to make a just transition, we must make sure people and communities that have provided us power for the last 100 years can be a part of powering

us for the next hundred years."

This free program is for educational purposes only. If you or your church representative plan to attend, please let us know by communicating with Kay Ahaus at [kayahaus@yahoo.com](mailto:kayahaus@yahoo.com).

### Did You Know...

For the tenth consecutive year, Illinois had the lowest average electricity bills in the Midwest, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Illinois at one point had the **highest bills in** the Midwest. Much of this progress is because of the work of the Citizens Utility Board (CUB). They worked hard to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA). CUB is committed helping you and your congregation find ways to save money and resist threats to our climate at the same time. Click [here](#).

### Contemplatives in Action

Matt Carriker the co-author of the 2021 General Synod Resolution, "Becoming a Church of Contemplatives in Action" and part of the team helping to implement next steps in integrating the Resolution, invites pastors and/or congregants who would like to be involved in this work. The final version of the Resolution is [here](#).

In response to the "Becoming a Church of Contemplatives in Action" Resolution that passed at General Synod 2021, a small group is developing a website, with the financial support of UCC National Faith INFO, (Faith INnovation & FORMation) to resource the wider UCC church in contemplative practices. One component of that website is a list of pastors and faith leaders who are comfortable being a resource for churches, other pastors, etc. in various contemplative practices. If you are interested in being a resource in contemplative practices for the wider church, fill out this Google [form](#) by December 8. Each person listed on the site will be asked to work in alignment with the [anti-racism statement](#) that our task team has developed.

The "Contemplatives in Action" curriculum group would like to put out an ask for anyone willing to contribute their unique perspective on "What does it mean to live the Contemplative Life?" or "What does it mean to live out Contemplation and Action for you?" If you have a short (1 to 2 page) reflection on either of these questions you'd like to share, send to [ucc.contemplatives@gmail.com](mailto:ucc.contemplatives@gmail.com).

Lastly, here are two resources (from the Southern New England UCC) for those who would like to go deeper with Christian contemplative practices. There is a free webinar, "Introduction to Christian Contemplative Practices" with Matt Carriker on Nov 17 at 11 pm CST. Register [here](#). The more in-depth program, "Engaging in Christian Contemplative Practices" (facilitated by Matt Carriker), begins in the new year: six virtual 90-minute evening sessions on these 2023 dates (with one optional in-person meeting in Mass.): January 18, February 1, February 15, March 1, March 15, March 29. Register [here](#).

We will keep you updated when the Contemplatives in Action website is up and its resources available. If you would like to stay up-to-date on monthly contemplative practice gatherings (led by rotating UCC faith leaders), or would like to be part of moving the "Contemplatives in Action" Resolution work forward, email [ucc.contemplatives@gmail.com](mailto:ucc.contemplatives@gmail.com).



### Update from Christy Pursell

Scott and I have officially moved to Pennsylvania, but we aren't yet settled in. We're remodeling our house and, if you've ever remodeled you know this can happen, it's a bit more work and taking a bit longer than expected. We are, however, spending lots of time with our grandson as we had hoped. I just want to let you all know how much I appreciated the time of recognition you provided at Annual Meeting. The words of appreciation and encouragement, the beautiful gifts that have helped me transition into life as Grandma in PA, and the incredible gift of cards/emails that were

filled with even more words of appreciation and encouragement are more appreciated than you can imagine or I can express. I am so appreciative of your gifts and plan on re-reading the cards/emails when I need to hear them again. Thanks again and again!!! Christy Pursell

## DuBois Center News



### DuBois 6.0 Campaign Update

Churches and individuals continue to show support of the DuBois 6.0 capital campaign through their donations. Because of your generosity the total for the DuBois 6.0 campaign is over \$240,490.

### Last Webinar Led by Rev. Andy Lang as Executive Director

Coming on Thursday, Dec. 1:



*CHSM News*  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

**ONA NEXT is a powerful webinar that shares best practices learned from thriving Open and Affirming churches, including tips on marketing, communication, ministry and advocacy.** Learn how other ONA congregations are attracting new members, building relationships with their LGBTQ+ neighbors, and making a difference in their communities. This inspiring and informative experience will be the last webinar led by Rev. Andy Lang before his retirement as the Coalition's executive director at the end of this year. The cost is low to encourage multiple members of your congregation to attend for one discounted price. Registered participants will receive a copy of the video to share with other members of your congregation. Register [here](#).

### Back Bay Mission Kicks Off Celebrating Its 100 Year Anniversary with a Capital Campaign.

Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives. Find out more about its celebration and capital campaign by watching the video above. For volunteer opportunities, check out the [calendar](#) for 2023. The calendar for 2024 will be available Jan 1. Dates go quickly. Or if you have questions, email [volunteercoordinator@thebackbaymission.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@thebackbaymission.org).



### Abuse Prevention Considerations: Keeping Your Ministry Safe

The UCC Insurance Board presents a webinar on Wed, Nov 30, at 1 pm CST, featuring: Christy Schiller, Vice President of Account Services for Praesidium. Failure to discover a sex offender can affect

those in your care, your reputation, financial stability, and trust within the community. Join us to learn about targeted solutions that will strengthen your ministry's abuse prevention efforts. Webinar is FREE but you need to register. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### Uni-Pres Kindercottage Needs Your Support

Our goal this year is to build a new playground for 3–5-year-olds. Our Playground equipment is in poor condition and has been worn over the years. Please help us reach our goals of striving to have a sound playground structure installed by the year 2023 .Contact Aimee Hart at [Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org](mailto:Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org) to learn how you can assist in building our new playground. As we prepare for the Winter Weather, we are asking our loving and generous givers to contact us about purchasing coats for our little lambs. We are also including a link for those who would like to shop online for various items for this holiday season. Link for [Target](#). Link for [Walmart](#). Cash app:\$unipreskindercottage

**St. John's Community Care will host a health fair on Dec 3 from 10 am-5 pm at 307 W. Clay St, Collinsville,** and services and resources will be available from Chestnut Health Systems, Adaptive Equipment Corner, SIHF Healthcare (Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation), Survival Flight, Inc, AgeSmart, OASIS, Shipley Chiropractic, National Alliance for Mental Illness, Faith In Action, Elmwood Rehab, Knollwood Retirement Community, Collinsville YMCA, Hospice of Southern Illinois, Senior Services Plus, Alcoholics Anonymous, and a vaccination clinic with Flu, Covid, and Shingles vaccines provided by Walgreens.

### **Stress-busting for Family Care-Givers**

St. John's Community Care holds sessions every Monday from 10 am - 11:30 am for 9 weeks. Although the current program is underway until Dec 19, the next session will be from Feb 6 - April 10, 2023. The program provides education and support, teaches stress management techniques, and helps care-givers develop coping strategies. Call 618-344-5008 for more information.

### **The Savvy Caregiver Series**

Are you noticing memory loss, confusion or unexpected behavior in your family? St. John's Community Care provides a class for care-givers beginning Jan 19 - Feb 23, 2023, from 10 am - 12 pm every Thursday. Class size is limited so registration is required. Call 618-344-5008.

### **Medical Equipment Loan Program**

St. John's Community Care is open to loan equipment and accept equipment returns and donations on Monday - Friday from 9 am - 4:30 pm. Call 618-344-5008 to determine if they have the equipment you need. Email [info@stjohnscc.org](mailto:info@stjohnscc.org) for more information or to reserve equipment.

## **What's Happening in Illinois South Conference**

**From UCC General Council - Proving Your Church's Tax-Exempt Status, and Your Church's EIN: What Local Churches Need to Know.** Do you know about the United Church of Christ's group exemption for 501(c)(3) status? Do you need to prove that your Local Church is tax-exempt? Do you know the difference between "nonprofit," "tax-exempt," and "501(c)(3)?" These terms, while often used interchangeably, have distinct meanings under the law, and come with different legal obligations. This post explains how these terms apply to your Local Church, how to prove your church's tax-exempt status, and the importance of maintaining your church's federal Employer Identification Number, or EIN. Read [more...](#)

### **Region 5**

#### **Festival of Trees : Facebook [Link](#)**

Join us at **Friedens UCC in Troy** for our 1st Annual Festival of Trees. Tour a collection of custom Trees and Wreaths donated and decorated by area businesses, civic organizations, and individuals. We will have a selection of wreaths and trees to be raffled off and the proceeds will benefit Triad Strong!!

Dates:

**Fri. Dec 2 12 pm – 8 pm**

Santa available for pictures from 5:00 – 8:00

**Sat. Dec 3 12 pm – 8 pm**

Olivia Bosaw and Matt Billings providing music from 5 pm – 8 pm

**Sun. Dec 4 1 pm– 4 pm**

Cookies and hot chocolate provided.

### **Holiday Caroling with Troy Friedens UCC**

On Sun, Dec 11 after worship, you are invited to join members of **Troy Friedens UCC** to travel throughout Troy and surrounding areas spreading Christmas cheer by singing festive holiday tunes. Gather in the Fellowship Hall for a lite snack before and hot cocoa after.

### **Celtica Christmas : FaceBook [Link](#)**

On Thursday, Dec 15 at 7 pm Troy Friedens UCC is hosting a Christmas with Celtica Concert! Everyone is invited to join us for Celtica, cake, coffee & cocoa! You will hear beautiful music and taste delicious sweets. It is open to the public and free to all.

### **Job Opportunities**

**Friedens UCC in Marissa seeks part-time organist and/or pianist.** Duties include playing organ and/or piano on Sundays for our 10am worship services as well as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, mid-week Lenten services, and our Pre-Lenten breakfast. Position includes 4 paid Sundays off (except for Easter) for vacation time. Services normally consist of a prelude, 2-3 hymns, some short, sung responses, and a postlude. To apply or for more information please contact Rev. Brett Palmer at [marissafriedens@gmail.com](mailto:marissafriedens@gmail.com) or call the church office 618-295-2004.

**St John UCC in Fairview Heights seeks a part time Church Secretary.** Duties include answering the phone, process and distribute email and regular mail and ordering supplies as needed. Preparing the Sunday bulletin, the annual meeting reports, newsletter, coordinate the church calendar, keep Member contribution files updated in Church Windows and providing support to the Pastor and other ministries of the Church. A full job description will be provided at the interview. 9-12 hours weekly and should be familiar with Word and Excel. Contact the Church office at 618-660-8894 or email [stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com).

### **Open Positions at Troy Friedens UCC**

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

If interested, call 618-667-6535 or email [friedens@friedensucc-troy.org](mailto:friedens@friedensucc-troy.org).

**Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC is in search for a Part-time Music Leader.** This position requires excellent people skills in working with the Council, Pastor, Secretary, committees, and Sunday school teachers. Music skills include the ability to play a Wick's two-manual pipe organ with pedals and piano. Good vocal skills are a plus but not required. The church does not have a choir but occasionally has special instrumentalists and vocalists. Church services are currently 10 am - 11 am on Sundays. Special services include Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and two Easter services. Contact the church secretary at 618-357-8075.

**Music Ministry Director at Evangelical UCC in Highland,** this position will promote leadership in developing and implementing the music ministries of the Church, and actively engage the congregation in worship through music. The Director serves as a resource to support, foster and coordinate the worship life of the congregation through congregational, choral, and special music. This is a part time position, averaging 15 hours per week. Scheduling is flexible and offers competitive compensation. Candidates can apply by sending their resume to [office@evucc.org](mailto:office@evucc.org). Click [here](#) for details.

## CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

**Please call (618-654-2125) 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 for financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact Debbie Kesner at [dkesner@iscucc.org](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org). For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at [lschuepbach@iscucc.org](mailto:lschuepbach@iscucc.org).

For DuBois Center program information, contact Rylee Bernhardt at 618-787-2202 or [program@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:program@DuBoisCenter.org).

For DuBois Center registration for upcoming events and camp sessions or ISC program registrations, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or [jriechmann@iscucc.org](mailto:jriechmann@iscucc.org).

To speak with the Conference Minister or search and call inquiries, contact Rev. Shana Johnson 618-882-8247 or [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto: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.*

[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](#)

[Pension Board-UCC](#) [St. John's Community Care](#) [UCC Insurance Board](#)

[Uplands Village](#) [UCC Campus Ministry](#) [Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)  
[UCC Newsletter](#)

