

January 10, 2023

Epiphany - The Reveal

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod, the king, behold, magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the East and have come to worship him." –

Matthew 2: 1-2

Dear friends, in this season of Epiphany, I would like to invite you into an exploration of how you can allow the presence of Christ to be more fully revealed in your life. This year the season of Epiphany began with the Feast Day of Epiphany (January 6) and will end on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (February 21).

Epiphany comes from the Greek word for "reveal."

As Christians, we celebrate how the star of Bethlehem was a sign in the sky that the Magi followed, which led them to the Christ child. Through this child, whom prophets foretold, the love of God for all people was revealed.

The gospel stories designated in the lectionary for the season of Epiphany describe various events that reveal the divinity of this child the Magi traveled to greet and worship in Bethlehem. In the lectionary, these gospel stories were chosen for corporate worship and private study in the season of Epiphany so that we might read about the ways the divinity of Christ was revealed during his earthly life and ministry.

In the gospel stories of Christ's baptism, we discover this child would grow to be the One whom John, a wilderness preacher, would baptize and pave the way for those who would become Christ's disciples. *(The gospel reading for Sunday, January 8, 2023, was Matthew 3:13-17.)*

In the gospel stories of John, the baptizer's proclamation of Jesus as the Christ, we discover this child would be the One who is filled with the Holy Spirit. *(The gospel reading for Sunday, January 15, 2023, is John 1:29-42.)*

Prayer list for Jan 15-21, 2023

Church & Pastors

**-Irvington
Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy
(Mark) Tate** (right)



Chaplains

**-Shawnee Correctional Center,
Rev. Lauren (Greg) Lambert-
Goheen, Vienna, IL
-St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Rev.
Chance (Christopher Guelbert)
Beeler, O'Fallon, IL**

People with Life Concerns

**-Pray for Rev. Lori and Wayne
Schafer** as they mourn the loss of their animals in a barn fire. Rev. Lori is the Pastor & Teacher for Moro St. John UCC Midway. Cards may be sent to them at 210 Grandview Pl, Brighton, IL 62012.

**-Keep the mother of Pastor
Norma Patterson** in your prayers as she struggles with health issues. Pastor Norma Patterson is the Pastor and Teacher for East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and has served on several teams for ISC. Cards may be sent to Norma at 5310 DePaul Drive, PO Box 4235, Fairview Heights, IL 62008.
**-Please pray for Rev. Ken (Jean)
Knobloch** as he recovers from

In the gospel stories of the calling of the disciples, we discover this child would grow to be the One who would inspire others to follow him and seek to experience and build God's radically transformative kin-dom in which all people are seen and experienced as God's beloved. (*The gospel reading for Sunday, January 22, 2023, is Matthew 4:12-23.*) In the gospel stories of Jesus' sermon on the mount, we discover this child would grow to be the One who will teach the way of holy living. (*The gospel reading for Sunday, January 29, 2023, is Matthew 5:1-12.*) In the gospel stories of Jesus' childhood, we discover this child would be named and claimed by wise leaders in the temple on the day of his presentation as a "Messiah" for whom the world has been waiting. (*The gospel reading for Thursday, February 2, 2023,*

is Luke 2:22-40.)

In the gospel stories of the teachings of Jesus, we discover this child would grow to be the One who would teach us how to be servants of God as light and salt of the world. (*The gospel reading for Sunday, February 5, 2023, is Matthew 5: 13-20.*)

In the gospel stories of hard sayings of Jesus, we discover this child would grow to be the One who never shied away from naming the cost of discipleship. (*The gospel reading for Sunday, February 12, 2023, is Matthew 5: 21-37.*)

And finally, in the gospel stories of the transfiguration, we discover this child would grow to be the One who was both fully human and fully divine. (*The gospel reading for Sunday, February 19, 2023, is Matthew 17: 1-9.*)

During this season of Epiphany, I invite you to read, study, pray and reflect upon these scriptures. What do these gospel stories reveal about the person and ministry of Jesus Christ?

But remember, the gospel stories do not end with what has been recorded in scripture. The spirit of the living God, the presence of Christ, is still moving afresh in you and me.

There are signs and wonders of Christ all around us. Yet, like the Magi, we must pay attention to their appearance. While for us it might not be a star in the sky, it could be something you see, hear or experience that has the power to reveal a deeper truth and connection with you, the divine.

The key is to have an open heart attuned to the workings of the Spirit. Pay attention to the nudges of the Spirit. And then, like the Magi, when something is revealed to you, have faith and trust to follow, not knowing from the outset where it will lead you. In this season of Epiphany, may you experience the awe of how the Spirit of God will show in your life when you commit to the watching, wondering, and wandering of faith.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

surgery. Rev. Knobloch served Irvington Friedens UCC and Red Bud St. Peter UCC before retiring, as well as serving on several ISC teams/committees. Cards can be sent to 1518 Mill St, PO Box 76, Maestown, IL 62256.

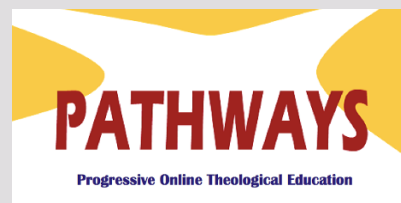
-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna deals with some memory loss. Good news...Jim reported that he is still in remission. Cards can be sent to them at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.



The Coalition for UCC Rural Ministries presents "Nourishing the Seeds of Faith" (Isaiah 55:10-11), a Virtual National Gathering of Rural/small town Churches & Ministries in the United Church of Christ on February 9-11, 2023, hosted by faith education, innovation & formation (faith info) of the Justice and

Local Church Ministry of the UCC. For more information contact, Rev. Roberto Ochoa at ochoar@ucc.org.

A new year brings new opportunities to learn and grow in faith! **PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. is pleased to announce our January term online, asynchronous courses** that are accessible and affordable for curious Progressive Christians. All courses are designed with the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at their core and are helpful to anyone who wants to develop spiritual and leadership gifts for use in the church and the world.



—United Church of Christ History and Polity, January 11-April 7; this course is designed according to the content recommendations of the UCC History and Polity Network Teachers group (12 weeks, \$625)

—Practicing Our Faith in the Public Square, January 11-February 21 (6 weeks, \$325)

—Understanding the Bible as a Progressive Christian, January 11-February 21 (6 weeks, \$325)

—The Art of Worship, January 11-February 21 (6 weeks, \$325)

We will also offer a three-week Introduction to Supervised Ministry for student ministers and their site supervisors who are participating in the PATHWAYS Supervised Ministry track. For more information about PATHWAYS as an organization, our courses, and to register, please visit www.pathwaystheological.org.

UCC 2023 Yearbook Reporting

The online Data Hub for UCC Yearbook reporting opened on Jan 4. We have until March 1 to input the information for your church.

An email was sent to the church, pastor, president, treasurer and office administrator for each church, and a hard copy was mailed last week.

It's important for your church to have its information recorded. If you have questions, contact Lynnette at lschuepbach@iscucc.org or 618-654-2125 all day on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday morning.

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.



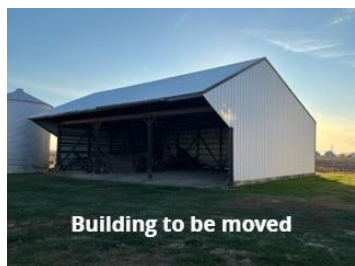
**DuBois Center
needs
Nature's
Classroom
Instructors!**

More information can be found at <https://duboiscenter.org/natures-classroom/> or reach out to the Program Director, Rylee Bernhardt by calling the office 618-787-2202 or emailing her at program@duboiscenter.org.

 **DuBois Center News**

For Lightning Fast Speed - The fastest way to receive a response from DuBois Center involves a new process for snail mail, email, and donations. To reach DBC via email use this email dcinfo@duboiscenter.org. To send snail mail regarding DuBois Center, send to

DuBois Center, c/o St. Peter UCC, PO Box 96, Okawville, IL 62271. Julie Riechmann, the ISC/DuBois Registrar, is processing mail and email from her office inside Okawville St. Peter UCC. **Or** you may send it directly to the Highland Office at *Illinois South Conference, 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249*. Either of those ways will give you the quickest response from us.



ISC Property Team needs your help - Camp DuBois has no hay shed to keep their round hay bales dry. Wet hay bales are prone to mold and bacteria which pose a serious health risk to the camp's horses. An ISC family has generously offered to donate their 43x68 metal pole building to the camp. Our challenge is to find a company that will dismantle the building, move it to Camp DuBois, and reassemble it at the camp. If you know of such a company please contact one of the Property Team's co-chairs, Roger Harris

(rharris2325@gmail.com or 618-631-4502) or Mark Beckmeyer (mbeckmey@icloud.com or 618-335-9945).

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 \$245,545.00.



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Early-Bird Deadline is January 13

CHHSM will hold its 85th Annual Gathering from

March 7-9, 2023 at the Hilton City Center in Denver! Early-bird registration is now open! *Together through Mountains and Valleys* is the theme. Focus will be to reflect on the mountains and valleys that God has seen us through over the past several years and the ways that God calls us to prepare the path for others. Highlights of the Annual Gathering include:

- A special preconference "Mix and Mingle" event at Montview Manor of CHHSM Member Archway Communities, which offers 360 views of the Denver area.
- Opening worship at the Kirk of Bonnie Brae, with a sermon by Rev. Traci D. Blackmon, UCC Associate General Minister and Vice President of Justice and Local Church Ministries.
- Opening keynote by Rev. Dr. Ben Sanders III, Strategic Advisor to Denver's Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) and Interim Executive Pastor at New Hope Baptist Church in Denver.
- Closing Keynote by Rev. Tracy Howe, Founder of Restoration Village Arts, who will also be sharing her music.
- Time to visit the Denver Art Museum, where we will hold Closing Worship and Consecration of the 2022 Nollau Class as Diakonal Ministers, with preacher Rev. Dr. Miguel A De La Torre, Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at Iliff School of Theology in Denver.

A limited number of scholarships for registration and/or hotel accommodations are available. Click [here](#) to apply.

In order to keep everyone safe, all attending are required to be vaccinated and boosted or have an employer-approved exemption as well as follow other safety measures.

Nollau Leadership Institute Is Open for 2023-2024 Class

The Nollau Leadership Institute is CHHSM's signature program with more than 250 attendees in its 20+ years. Enrollment is now open and the short online application can be found [here](#).

Grounded in the health and human service organizations of the United Church of Christ, this program offers a unique space in which to experience leadership formation. Each year, Nollau brings together a community of leaders committed to creating a just, caring, and compassionate world. Cultivating this connection between others, the world, and within themselves is the heart of the Nollau experience.

Through retreats, online interactions, and peer mentoring, this program supports leadership formation through a variety of learning modalities and within a community of practice. The use of rituals, art, poetry, embodiment, and time to simply be in nature are all part of the program—alongside the interactive didactic sessions. Guided by CHHSM's commitment to issues of Race, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice, leadership will be examined and practiced. You can learn more about the curriculum [here](#).

The Insurance Board Invites You to Read the Fall/Winter Issue of The Steward, their newsletter.

The topics covered in this issue include:

- It's Winterization Time!
- Agent Corner
- Slip & Fall Claims Lessons Learned
- Let There Be Light
- Fire Safety for the Holidays
- CEO Corner

Click [here](#) to read it.

THROUGH DEACONESS NURSE MINISTRY

The Good Samaritan Fund through Deaconess Nurse Ministry provides financial support, subject to available funds, for UCC active and retired clergy and their partners/spouses who reside in Illinois South Conference.

Eligible Applicant (Applicant) criteria:

1. Active or retired UCC clergy with good standing and residing in the Illinois South Conference of the UCC.
2. Surviving domestic partners or spouses of active or retired UCC Clergy residing in the Illinois South Conference of the UCC. If a surviving spouse of clergy remarries, they are no longer eligible.

Type of Assistant:

1. One time, Emergency Assistance Grants are for unforeseen circumstances that create financial demand. Emergency Grants do not subsidize churches or agencies or relieve them of meeting normal compensation responsibilities. Emergency grants are generally considered once per person in a twelve-month period with a maximum of \$3,000 for the year/ Credit counseling or other no cost financial counseling programs may be recommended for those who have avoidable financial circumstances.
2. Gap Assistant Grants are for a specific financial need for a short-term period which will eventually be resolved by other funding sources. Gap funding is available for up to 12 months rolling for a total amount of \$15,000 to an individual.

Referral Process:

Applicant will need to make contact with your Conference Minister sjohnson@iscucc.org for referral process to Deaconess.



Health & Human Services Sunday - January 29, 2023 - 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 Health and Human Service [Sunday](#) takes place on January 29, 2023.

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 unique elements such as a Meditation for Mental Health and Beatitudes for Essential Workers.

Stress-busting for Family Care-Givers - St. John's Community Care holds sessions every Monday from 10 am - 11:30 am for 9 weeks. 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.

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@stjohnsccc.org for more information or to reserve equipment.

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.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference



St. Jacob UCC has a 14-foot-tall artificial Christmas tree available for free to any church or organization who would like it. Anyone interested should contact the St. Jacob church office at stjucc@hometel.com or 618-644-2142.

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 3 - On Sat, Jan 21, Granite City St. John UCC will host its Spaghetti Dinner from 4 pm - 6:30 pm at the church. Ages 13+: \$10; Children ages 5-12: \$6; and Children ages 4 and under: Free. If you have any questions, contact St. John UCC at 618-877-6060 or stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com.

Region 5 - Alhambra Salem UCC will hold its 75th Annual Sausage Supper on Sat, Jan 28 from 1 pm - 7 pm as a drive-thru only event. Menu includes fresh homemade pork sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes, gravy, green beans, and applesauce. Cost is \$13 per meal. Meat sales - pre-orders only by Jan 24 with pick up on Thurs, Jan 26 from 10 am - 6 pm of Sat, Jan 28 from 9 am - 11 am. If you have questions, call 618-830-4587 or 314-575-1466.

Region 8 - New Baden Zion UCC will host its Frostbite BBQ on Jan 28 starting at 11am – 2 pm or until it is gone. Menu includes pork steak, chicken, and plenty of sides with each meal. For any questions, contact the office at 618-588-4135.

Region 9 - Belleville Concordia Church will hold its Chili Challenge Men's Fellowship Event on Sat, Jan 21 from 11 am - 3 pm. Eat in or carry out. Menu includes Chili samples (1 of each chili) for \$5; 16 oz serving of chili \$5; Plain hot dog for \$2; Chili dog for \$3; or hot dog/Chili combo for \$7. 50% of proceeds go to the Millstadt Food Pantry. Questions, call 618-476-3377.

Belleville St. Paul UCC will hold its Crafty Mania on Sat, Jan 21, 2023, from 9 am - 4 pm. Ticket includes all day crafting, lunch, snacks, crafting space, attendance prizes, and vendors in the afternoon. Tickets for raffle items will be available for purchase. Cost for the day is \$35. Register [online](#) (addition \$3.77) or send the form [here](#). Registration with payment deadline is Jan 17.

Belleville Christ UCC will hold its 43rd Annual Wurstmart on Sun, Jan 22 from 11 am - 4 pm. Drive thru or carry out only. Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, applesauce, and dessert. Cost is \$12 per plate.

Job Opportunities - Granite City St. John UCC is seeking a passionate, part-time Director of Music able to consistently provide a holy experience for our congregation and to reach new people through live music at worship services. The Director of Music will develop and lead the music ministries of our church year-round, providing live music throughout the year along with direction for our choir. The new director must have high proficiency in playing organ and piano. To support you, both our state-of-the-art Allen Bravura digital organ and our grand piano are recently installed in the sanctuary, along with a new top-of-the-line sound system. Our worship services are made more vibrant and motivational through music, and we rely on our Director of Music to lead the way. This part-time position will entail an average of 10-12 hours per week, with the inclusion of Sunday morning worship, Wednesday evening rehearsals, and occasional special services, funerals and weddings. The position's salary will be commensurate with the individual's past work experience. In Christ we live, celebrate and serve. Our church's mission statement embodies who we are: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, living our faith in Jesus Christ, and celebrating the promises of God, we welcome all to unite in loving and serving God. We hope you are called to be part of our historic church. Candidates may apply by submitting a resume and references to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com.

Troy Friedens UCC is looking for a Nursery Attendant. If interested, call 618-667-6535 or email friedens@friedensucc-troy.org.

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.

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. Click [here](#) for details.

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.

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.

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at lschuepbach@iscucc.org.

For DuBois Center program information, contact Rylee Bernhardt at 618-787-2202 or 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.

The ISC Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, will be on a short limited medical leave after surgery on December 9 to the end of the year. Please get in touch with her via email sjohnson@iscucc.org or text 618-882-8247 if you have a question or an emergency.

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](#)

