



January 17, 2023



Exciting News for DuBois Center and The Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ

The Search Committee for the Executive Director is pleased to announce that Noah McCarn has accepted the position of Executive Director for DuBois Center.

After an extensive search process which included: Zoom interviews; submissions of a case study of how they would envision staffing, programming, finances, and partnerships for DuBois Center; checking candidates' professional references; and an onsite tour of DuBois, the Search Committee unanimously voted to hire Noah as the next Executive Director of DuBois Center.

As the committee continued to be engaged in interviews and conversations with Noah, as well as conversations with those who knew him through our intensive reference checks, we discovered that Noah possessed the qualities we were most looking for in a leader who could help us live into a vision he has of DuBois Center, to be "A gathering place to experience community, unlike other places. A place where people can experience the kin-dom of God, in large and small ways, that they can take back into their lives."

Noah is a calm, non-anxious presence who brings a team approach to his leadership, as he highly values collaboration and the personal well-being and development of the staff he leads. Noah is a deep thinker and person of faith who is deeply invested in eco-justice and the work of dismantling oppressive systems which do not allow all of God's beloveds to be seen, heard, valued, and believed. Noah is a get-

Prayer list for Jan 22-28, 2023 Church & Pastors

-Jamestown St. Paul UCC (right)



-Jerseyville Peace UCC, Rev. Debbie Lawson (left)

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Hugh and Bo Fitz, Mascoutah, IL

People with Life Concerns

-Pray for the **people of California** who are dealing with storms and flooding.

-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 surgery. Rev. Knobloch served Irvington Friedens UCC and Red Bud St. Peter UCC before retiring, as well as serving on

it-done kind of person, taking the incentive to do the research on how to get things done so that personal and shared deadlines and goals can be met.

Here is what Noah has to say about beginning his ministry at DuBois Center, "It is an exciting and humbling experience to serve as the next Executive Director of the DuBois Center. As I begin to learn about the camp and talk with people about their camp experiences, I am continually amazed by the passion and love folks have for the DuBois Center.

My love and passion for camp began at a young age in my home state of North Carolina. I attended

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 improves with her battle with 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.

summer camp at Johns River Valley Camp, the camp associated with the Southern Conference of the UCC, located in the mountains of North Carolina. There, I first felt God's presence in the company of fellow campers and the wild beings, and it has served as an experience foundational to my being.

After graduating college with degrees in Math and Computer Science and working as a software developer, I decided that working in a cubicle was not for me, so I moved to St. Louis to attend Eden Theological Seminary. While in seminary, I remembered my own camp experiences and became curious about the intersections of faith, Earth, and justice.

In the spring of 2020, I graduated from Eden Seminary in the early days of the pandemic and found jobs as a handyman and then at Human Support Services in Waterloo, IL, at one of their residential mental health facilities serving clients with mental illness.

While I greatly appreciate those experiences, I am grateful to be able to return to the work I am most passionate about. I am committed to creating an inclusive community where we all may grow together in our faith and know God knows us and is connected to one another and all that is."

The Illinois South Conference sincerely thanks the Executive Director Search Committee for their time and energy in prayerful and Spirit-led discussions, deliberations, and decisions.

Its members were:

Priscilla Self, an at-large member of the committee, served as a co-chair of the Search Committee

Nicole Avise-Rouse, the current chair of the Conference Outdoor Ministry Team, served as a co-chair of the Search Committee.

Rev. Joan Mier, a current member of the Conference Personnel Committee, served as the chaplain of the Search Committee.

Rev. Philip Barbier, a current member of the Conference Outdoor Ministry Team, served as the secretary of the Search Committee.

Dr. Jill Baker, the current Moderator of the Conference, served as an ex-officio member of the Search Committee.

Rev. Shana Johnson, the Conference Minister, also served as an ex-officio member of the Search Committee.

Noah will be moving on-site soon and officially begin his ministry on Monday, January 23, 2023.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Noah McCarn, the new Executive Director of DuBois Center, to the Illinois South Conference.



Marissa Friedens UCC and the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ invite you to the Installation Service of Rev. Brett Palmer as their Pastor and Teacher on February 5 at 3 pm at Friedens UCC, 820 N Main St., Marissa, IL 62257. Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles. There will be a reception with refreshments following the installation service.

Preparing for Lent - Life these days. It's a lot.

We are simultaneously running from empty while running on empty. Jesus might ask us: "Beloved, is empty the worst thing that can happen to you? Is stillness and doing nothing so awful? Perhaps the thing you are running from is the very thing you most need."

Enter Lent, which is all about surrender, emptying, and letting go of everything that leads away from the cross. [Running from Empty](#) is a daily invitation to embrace the empty places we might prefer to avoid; to breathe deeply, love fully, act justly; and to find Jesus in the stillness and the storm. [Pre-order](#) for daily reading in Lent!



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.



Warm January Greetings from the ISC Hunger Action Committee

"Growing Hope Globally" meeting will be on Sun, Feb 5 at St. John UCC in Maeystown from 1 pm to 3 pm. All are invited. This is an ecumenical

organization that seeks to create sustainable solutions to end hunger throughout the world. The conversation will include training on best farming practices and provide access to clean water. It is an informal gathering to share ideas about the partnerships which Growing Hope Globally has with farmers around the world and how our Illinois South Conference churches can participate in these partnerships. Learn how you might become part of the solution to end world hunger.



**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 \$246,405.00.



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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.

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.



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.

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@stjohnscc.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.

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 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.

Office Business Manager - Evangelical UCC in Highland has an opportunity for a full-time Office Business Manager. This position will be responsible for overall administrative operation & management of the church office, day care, preschool & building & grounds. 2+ years of work experience required. Candidates can send their resume to bbray@evucc.org. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

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, is on a short limited medical leave. 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](#)

