

Day of Discipleship
March 4, 2023
[Register Now!](#)

Connecting with God, Neighbor, and Self will be held on Sat, March 4 from 9 am - 12 pm at Alhambra Salem UCC.

Keynote speaker is Rev. Kelsey

Beebe, who believes firmly in an all-loving God, embodied Christ, and ever-moving Holy Spirit that connects us all. She is a trained dancer, yoga instructor, and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She serves as a solo pastor at two churches just south of Milwaukee, WI, and is the Executive Minister of Dancing Pastor Ministries and host of the Lady Preacher Podcast. She has performed, preached, key-noted, and led retreats all around the United States as well as in Costa Rica. In addition to her keynote presentation, you can choose two sessions with a choice of six workshop topics.

WORKSHOP Choices— *You do not need to choose your workshops at this time! You will choose your workshops during the event.*

WORKSHOP #1 – “A Taste of Companionship”
Speaker: Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Grantfork UCC

This is an introduction to Companionship Workshops which teach church members ways to respond to people dealing with mental health challenges. The full workshops, centered on developing five spiritual disciplines which promote building relationships, will help overcome the stigma associated with mental health concerns.

WORKSHOP #2 - “Creating Community for Online Worshippers”

Speaker: Darren Calhoun, Urban Village Church, Chicago

Darren Calhoun, a band member of The Many (who joined us for our 2022 Annual Meeting), will join us virtually to discuss how local churches can engage and build a community for online worshippers.

[Prayer list for Feb 5-11, 2023](#)
Church & Pastors

-Lenzburg St. Peter's UCC, Rev. Earl (Johanna) Crecelius (right)



-Maeystown St. John UCC, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole (left)

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Robert E and Jay Lee, Swansea, IL

[People with Life Concerns](#)

-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 several ISC teams/committees. Cards can be sent to 1518 Mill

Darren is a worship leader at Urban Village Church in the South Loop of Chicago.

WORKSHOP #3 – “Lebanon Listens Ministry”

Speaker: Christine Brewer – St. Paul UCC, Lebanon

Christine will explain how what started as a simple, open, and honest community discussion has blossomed into a vital ministry that connects neighbor to neighbor in direct response to addressing the food insecurity issues in the wider Lebanon community.

St, PO Box 76, Maeystown, 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.

WORKSHOP #4 - “Labyrinths – A Spiritual Practice”

Speaker: Rev. Stacy Tate, Irvington Friedens UCC

Rev. Stacy Tate will lead a workshop on the spiritual practice of labyrinths. Rev. Tate is a certified labyrinth guide. Participants will experience for themselves how this tool can be used for prayer, personal reflection, and spiritual transformation.

WORKSHOP #5 – “Transforming Christian Education for the Inclusive Church”

Panelist: Pastor Tim Reed, Pastor of Belleville Trinity UCC and Carla Kay Robertson

In this workshop, participants will be guided through a series of activities based on Multiple Intelligences, a theory of intelligence developed by Howard Gardner. Provide the service of an interactive and engaging Christian Education Program utilizing these tried-and-true activities.

WORKSHOP #6 – “Deeper Listening to the World Around Us”

Speaker: Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

In this workshop, participants will be taught and guided through a Lectio Divina method of observation, reflection, response, and rest using scripture, poetry, art, and cinema. This technique can be used in small groups or for personal devotion time to uncover deeper spiritual meanings and truths, which tap into using all of our senses to be more in tune and aligned with messages of God all around us.

Click [here](#) to register. Click [here](#) for a flyer to post in your church.



**Delegates & Pastors: You Are Invited
To An Illinois South Council
Ecclesiastical Council
To Examine for Ordination
Amy Brooks**

Sunday, February 26, 2023,
3:00 pm on Zoom (Link below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7088890946>

Schedule:

2:45 – The Zoom session will open

3:00 – Ecclesiastical Council begins

Introduction by a member of the Committee on Ministry

Presentation of the Candidate

Summary of the Ordination [Paper](#)

Examination and Discernment

Deliberation and Decision by the Ecclesiastical Council

Announcement of the Vote

Who Should Attend?

An Ecclesiastical Council is an official meeting of the Illinois South Conference acting as an Association. Delegates from each congregation and all United Church of Christ ordained and licensed ministers with standing in the Conference are called to be present for this meeting. Local churches are entitled to the same number of voting delegates as for any meeting of the Conference.

Why Are We Meeting?

To examine Amy Brooks, a Member in Discernment of Illinois South Conference, for ordained ministry. Amy has completed the preparation steps for ordination, was examined by the Illinois South Conference Committee on Ministry, and was approved as a candidate for an Ecclesiastical Council. It is now the task of the Ecclesiastical Council (the gathered body of voting delegates of our Conference) to discern if Amy is worthy of ordination in the United Church of Christ.

How Can We Prepare?

Please download the ordination [paper](#) and the [document](#) entitled "The Church's Expectations of Its Candidates for Ordination," which will be attached to email invitations sent to your churches. Copies can also be accessed on our Conference [website](#). Please make copies for other delegates or share the papers so they can read these materials before the meeting. During the Zoom event, delegates can ask the candidate questions about the ordination paper and call to ministry.



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.

Generosity/Stewardship Materials

"Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives" is this year's UCC stewardship theme, making the connection between donor generosity and the ministry and mission of your congregation. Materials include extensive resources for worship, sermons, and faith formation for children, youth and adults. The materials also provide practical tools such as logos, commitment cards, bulletin inserts and letters. Guidance for every step of your campaign helps you make the best use of these robust materials. Find out [more](#).

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.



We're Looking for a Few Good Horses

As we prepare for Summer Camp, we want to add a couple horses to our herd. We're

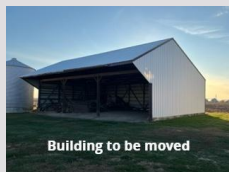
 DuBois Center News

hoping someone out there knows of a horse or two that might be a good fit for camp that could be donated or purchased at a reasonable cost.

Here's what we are looking for:

- Reliable kid-safe trail horses - walk, trot and canter with good brakes.
- Not too young and not too old - our preference is for horses between 5 and 15 years old.
- Large and sturdy - at least 15 hands tall and well built. They will often be carrying children, but they also need to be able to carry large adults.
- Healthy, easy keepers - our herd spends much of their time living naturally in our pastures and woods. No horses with special dietary or health needs.
- Good temperament - they will be working with kids much of the time and need to be patient and easy-going.
- No bad habits - no bucking, rearing or cribbing

If you know a horse that is available and might be a good camp horse, please contact Scott Kuether at sekuether21@gmail.com.



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 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.



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.

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.

Mark Your Calendars! - Unleashing Potential in St. Louis, Missouri, will hold a Trivia Night on Sat, April 22. Watch for more information coming soon. Let's join together for fun that helps to empower the children we serve.

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services Presents Foster Parent Info Sessions - If you have ever considered becoming a foster parent, this event on Thurs, Feb 9 from 10 am - 12 pm and 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at 8 Executive Dr, Ste 200, Fairview Heights is for you. Both sessions will feature a presentation from our foster care staff with information about becoming a foster parent including licensing requirements, background checks, necessary training and the timeline associated with completing requirements. Find out about therapeutic treatment homes and opportunities for respite time shifts. Current Hoyleton foster parents will be there to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served. Bring a friend to be entered in a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card. RSVP [here](#).

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Region 2 - Valmeyer St John UCC will hold its Fish Fries (carryout only from the shed) on Wed, Feb 22, from 4 pm – 7 pm and Fri, March 3 from 4 pm - 7:30 pm. Enjoy cod plates, cod sandwiches and cod by the pound. Sides will be American potato salad, slaw and fries.

Region 5 - Troy Friedens UCC will host Classic Friedens Friends on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10 am. The day is designed specifically for adults who are retired, semi-retired, etc. BAD WEATHER RESCHEDULE DATE IS February 1. The day will include some stretching/ chair yoga, a devotional time to set goals for the year, lunch, and a movie. Feel free to come for part or all of this day. No prior knowledge or experience needed to participate. All are welcome!

Troy Friedens UCC will host its Coffee & Dessert Speaker Series on the Third Thursday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Speakers scheduled are:

February 16 “Jarvis Township History and Folklore”

Speaker: Kevin Kaegy a Jarvis Family Descendent

March 16 “A Trip to the Holy Land”

Speakers: Pastor Tim & Danielle Harrison & fellow travelers

April 20 “Lessons from the Master Gardeners”

Speakers: Bob and Judy Smejkal

May 18 “The 60s Chicks Show Choir

Region 9 - Concordia UCC will hold its All-You-Can-Eat Pancake & Sausage Breakfast from 7 am - 10 am on Sat, Feb 25. Menu includes three kinds of pancakes - Buttermilk, Oatmeal & Gluten Free. Adults \$9; Children ages 5 - 12 \$6; Free for children under 5. Proceeds go to Concordia UCC's youth programs.

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.

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

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.

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 Executive Director, contact Noah McCarn at director@DuBoisCenter.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](#)

